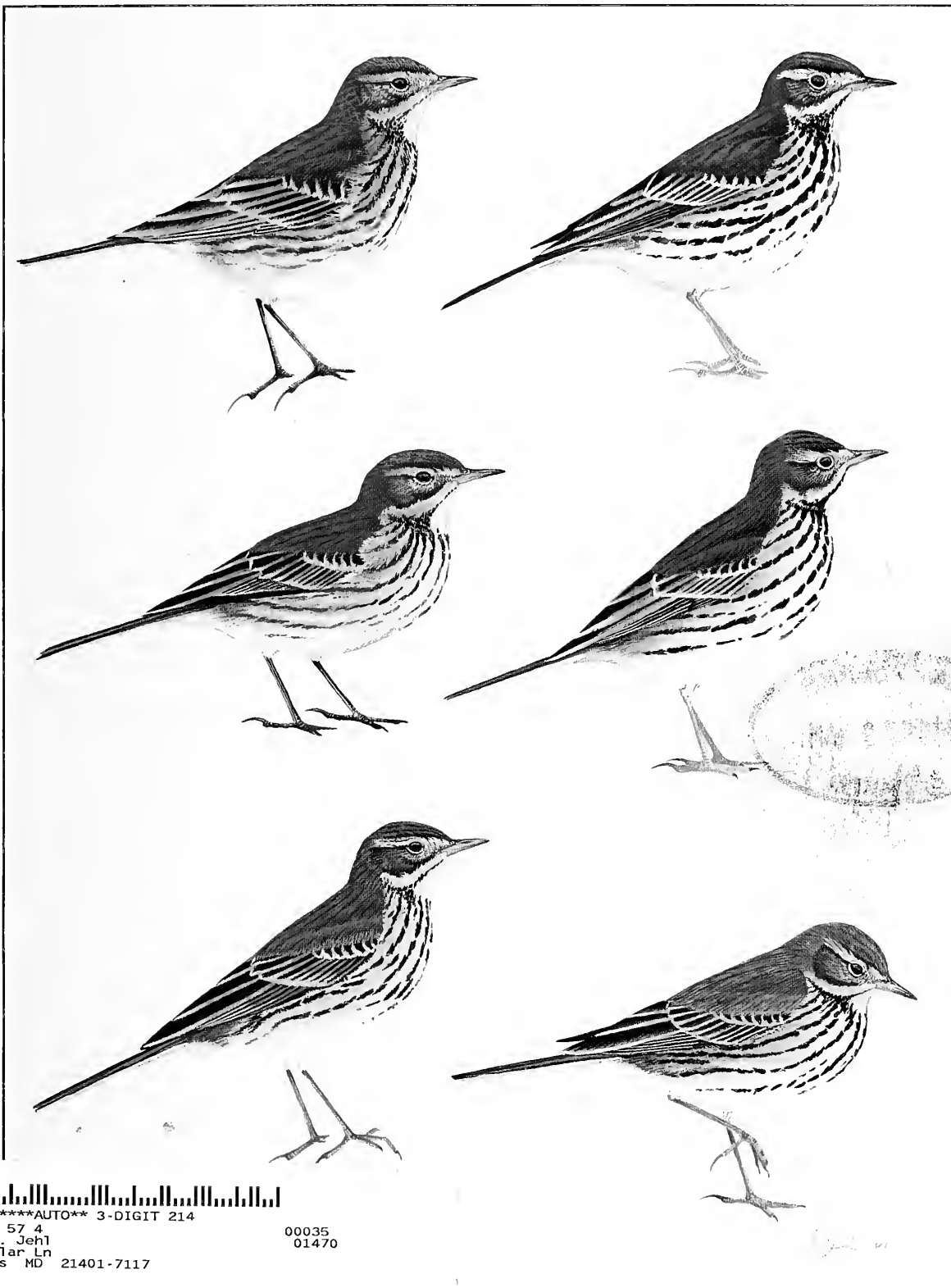


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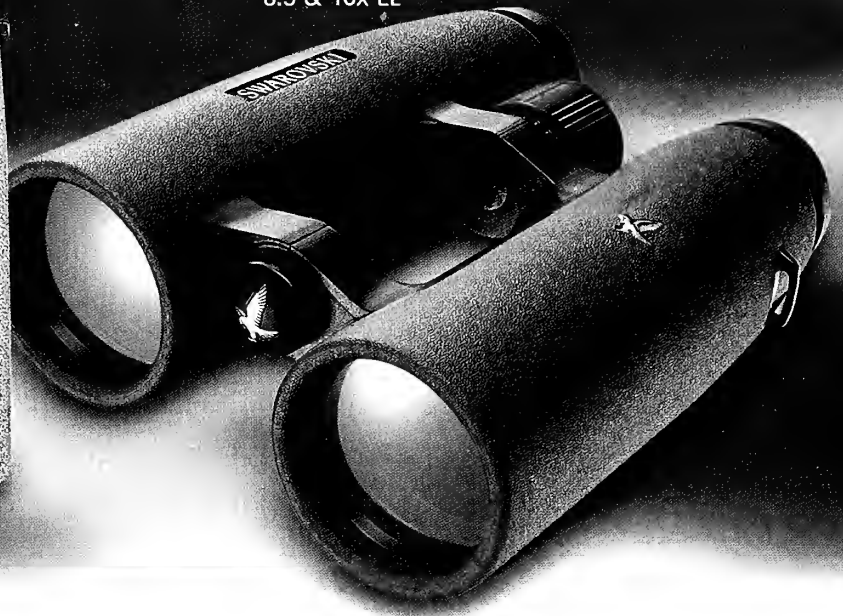
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On the cover—Basic-plumaged American Pipits painted by Andrew Birch. Left-hand column, top to bottom: American Pipits of the subspecies *rubescens*, *rubescens*, and *pacificus*. Right-hand column, top to bottom: American Pipits of the subspecies *japonicus*, *japonicus*, *alticola*. The *japonicus* subspecies, a vagrant to California, Alaska, and Mexico, is quite distinctive and may merit status as a full species, perhaps to be called Siberian Pipit. Read all about the distribution and vagrancy of these forms in the lead paper by Cin-Ty Lee and Andrew Birch.



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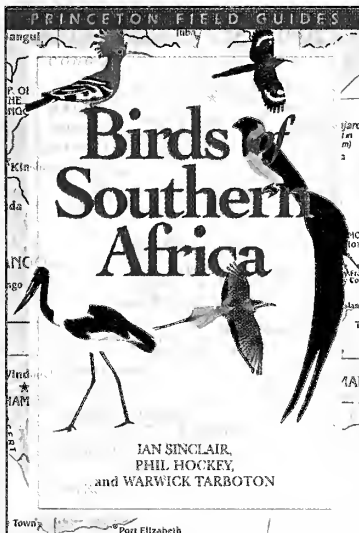
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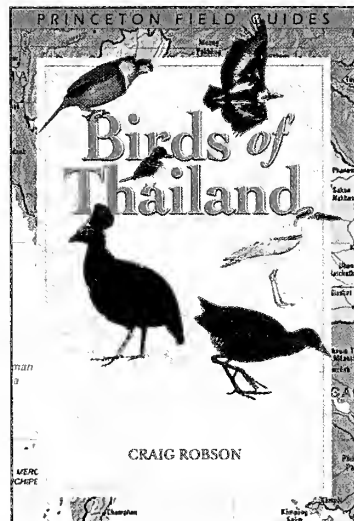


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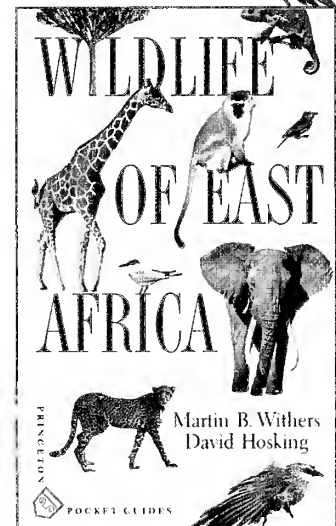
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Notes on the distribution, vagrancy, and field identification of American Pipit and “Siberian Pipit”

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Introduction

The pipit *Anthus rubescens*—called American Pipit by the American Ornithologists’ Union (A. O. U. 1998), Buff-bellied Pipit by the British Ornithologists’ Union (B. O. U. 1986)—is currently divided into four subspecies: *japonicus*, *pacificus*, *alticola*, and *rubescens* (A.O.U. 1957). The first subspecies, *japonicus*, may be a candidate for full-species status according to the American Ornithologists’ Union (A.O.U. 1989) because of its separate breeding range in eastern Asia and its divergent plumage characters. The other three subspecies (*pacificus*, *alticola*, and *rubescens*) breed entirely within North America and western Greenland and resemble

each other closely. For this reason, we refer to *A. r. japonicus* as “Siberian Pipit” in this paper and to the three North American subspecies collectively as “American Pipit” (Fig. 1; see illustrations of basic-plumaged birds on front cover of the journal). We believe that this choice of common terminology will reduce confusion if Siberian and American Pipits are accorded status as separate species in the future. When we consider both forms together, we here employ the name preferred for all four in the Palearctic—the “Buff-bellied Pipit complex.”

Siberian Pipit is a vagrant to Europe, the Middle East, and along the Pacific coast of North America, whereas American Pipits vagrate to western Europe (*rubescens*) and are possibly rare winterers in eastern Asia (*pacificus*). In greater detail, however, the vagrancy patterns of Siberian and American Pipits are poorly known, as there is a gap in the literature regarding the subspecific identification of the members of the Buff-bellied Pipit complex. To our knowledge, the only recent sources to address the complex are Parkes (1982) and Phillips (1991). However, both sources focus primarily on identification of the three American subspecies in alternate plumage. Alström and Mild (1996), Lewington et al. (1991), and Beaman and Madge (1998) discuss the identification of Siberian Pipit in relation to the *rubescens* subspecies of American Pipit but do not address the degree of plumage variation within American Pipit subspecies. This article attempts to remedy these gaps in the literature.



Figures 4. This typical Siberian Pipit shows the flaring submalar stripe, heavily streaked underparts (especially the sides), white underparts, white eye-ring, white median coverts, and pale legs. Though a bit paler than some individuals (cf. Figs. 8, 9), the bird is typical in other respects. Photographed along the Tamu River, Tokyo, Japan 31 January 1998. Photograph by Takashi Koike.

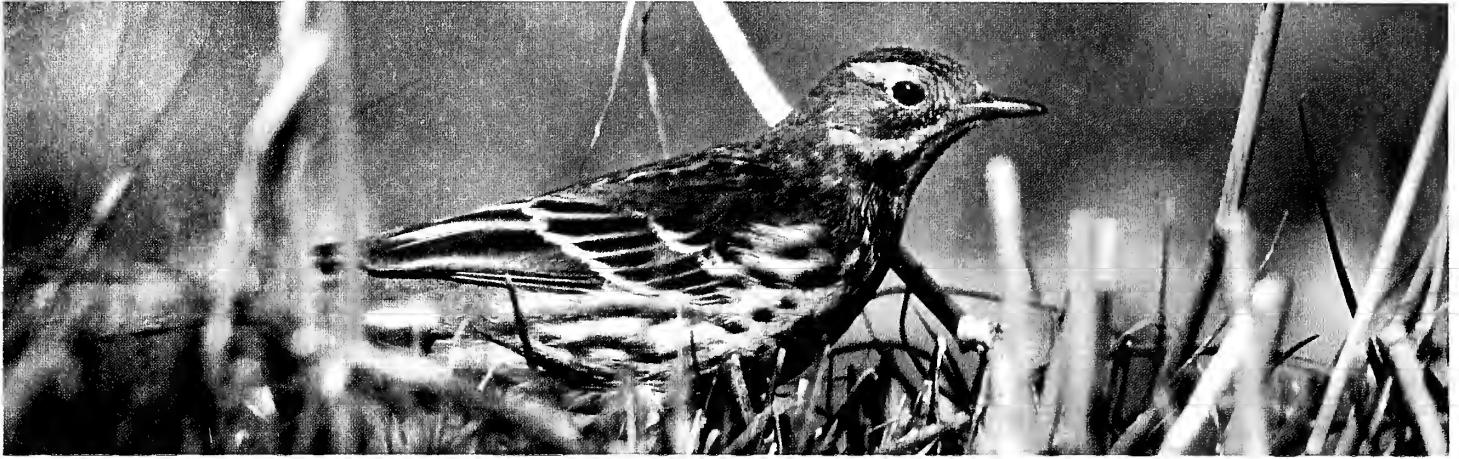


Figure 5. The same Siberian Pipit as in Figure 4, showing the eye-ring and wingbars to better advantage. *Photograph by Takashi Koike.*



Figure 7. This Siberian Pipit tends toward the pale end, and the eye-ring is not especially pronounced, but other characters indicate Siberian. Photographed in Japan in winter, date unknown. *Photograph by Takashi Koike.*



Figure 8. This photograph depicts a Siberian Pipit with fairly strong contrast between dark brown upperparts and whitish underparts, which in turn contrast with dark streaking below. The streaks of the underparts coalesce longitudinally, giving the bird a striped appearance. The white tips to the median coverts contrast not only with the dark upperparts but also with the slightly buffy greater median coverts, a common feature in Siberian Pipits. Photographed 15 December 1996 in Japan. *Photograph by Tetsu Sato.*



Figure 6. Another Siberian Pipit, photographed 1 December 2001 in South Korea. They eye-ring is well-defined, likewise the coalescence of dark streaks below the malar area and the starkly marked underparts against a whitish background. *Photograph by Kim Hyun-Tae.*

While plumage variation within the various American Pipit subspecies probably precludes field identification of individuals to the level of subspecies, at least at a reasonable level of confidence, separating Siberian from American Pipits in basic plumage within the context of subspecific variation in the three American Pipit subspecies is feasible (cf. Sibley 2000). Our analyses below incorporate examinations of approximately 300 museum specimens (Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California, Berkeley; Harvard Museum of Comparative Zoology; Los Angeles County Natural History Museum), hundreds of hours of field observations (primarily of American Pipits; several field observations of Siberian Pipit in the United States), and examination of approximately 15 photographs of Siberian Pipit.

Systematics and nomenclature

In this section, we review the historical taxonomy of the Buff-bellied Pipit complex in brief (Fig. 1). In 1957, the Buff-bellied Pipit complex was considered conspecific with a number of Eurasian forms under the hierarchical species Water Pipit (*A. spinoletta*). Water Pipit was subsequently split into three subspecies: Buff-bellied Pipit (*A. rubescens*), Rock Pipit (*A. petrosus*), and Water Pipit (*A. spinoletta*) (B. O. U. 1986). Vaurie (1959), Hall (1961), and Williamson (1965) originally split *A. spinoletta* into two ecological groups, "Water Pipits," which breed in mountainous regions in Europe, Asia, and North America, and "Rock Pipits," which breed along rocky coastlines in northwestern Europe. These two groups were considered to be separate species by Bannerman (1953) and Oreel (1980). However, Nazarenko (1978) showed that two subspecies of the "Water Pipits," *blakistoni* and *japonicus*, overlapped in terms of their breeding range in central Asia but that they preferred different habitats. As a result of this study, Glutz (1985) broke down the "Water Pipits" into two more species, "Water Pipit" and "Buff-bellied Pipit," producing a total of three species; this split is supported by genetic studies as well (Zink et al. 1995). Throughout the 1980s, in fact, many other authorities supported this new taxonomic arrangement: Devillers (1980), the British Ornithologists' Union Records Committee (1986), Alström and Mild (1987), and Knox (1988) all suggested that the entire complex be divided into three species: Rock (*A. petrosus*), Water (*A. spinoletta*), and Buff-bellied Pipit (*A. rubescens*). Alström and Mild (1996) further showed that Rock, Water, and Buff-bellied Pipits can be distinguished from each other based on plumage characters, regardless of species status. The latter is the taxonomy also currently recognized by the American Ornithologists' Union (1989).

Within each of these three species, there is geographic and subspecific variation. Rock Pipit (*A. petrosus*) consists of nominate *petrosus*—breeding in Ireland, Britain, and northwestern France—and *littoralis*, breeding in Fennoscandia and northwest Russia (Cramp 1988). Williamson (1965) also recognized two other Rock Pipit races potentially worthy of subspecific status: "*kleinschmidtii*" (breeding on the Faeroe Islands and possibly the outer Scottish islands) and "*meinertzhageni*" (breeding on the Outer Hebrides). However, the British Ornithologists' Union Records Committee (1986) did not recognize these forms. The Water Pipit (*A. spinoletta*) consists of three subspecies: *A. s. spinoletta*, breeding in southern and central Europe; *A. s. coutellii*, breeding in Asia Minor; and *A. s. blakistoni*, breeding in Central Asia. The Buff-bellied Pipit (*A. rubescens*) complex currently consists of *A. r. japonicus*, *A. r. pacificus*, *A. r. alticola*, and *A. r. rubescens*.

DISTRIBUTION OF SUBSPECIES IN THE BUFF-BELLIED PIPIT COMPLEX

Breeding range

The breeding and wintering ranges of the four subspecies of Buff-bellied Pipit are poorly understood owing to difficulty in subspecific identification.



Figure 9. Though a bit soft in focus, this photograph captures all of the features of Siberian Pipit nicely: the very dark streaks below, darker than the upperparts' color, extend noticeably along the flanks. The streaks below the malar come together and flare to the side of the neck, similar to Richard's Pipit (*Anthus richardi*). Photographed 15 January 1993 in Miyagi Prefecture, Japan. Photograph by Toru Akiba.

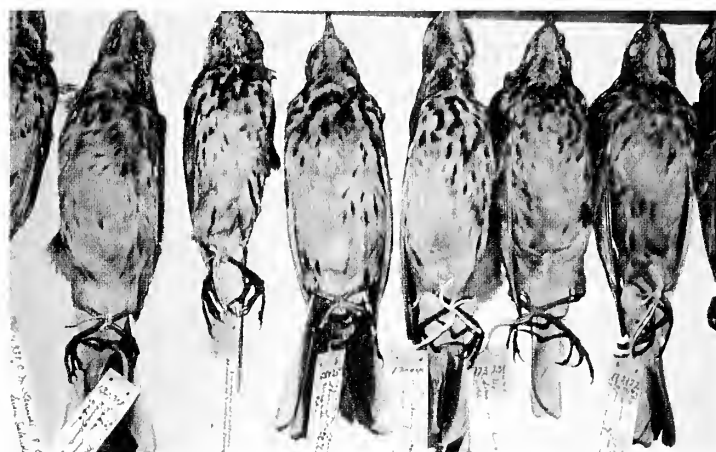


Figure 10. Siberian Pipits in the collection at the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley. Note the heavy ventral streaking (almost striping) in all individuals, all of which are in basic plumage. Photograph by Cin-Ty Lee.



Figure 11. American Pipits of the subspecies *pacificus* in the collection at Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley. The comparatively light streaking (almost spotting) of these birds never coalesces into a longitudinally "striped" appearance below, nor is the contrast with the underparts quite as strong as in Siberian. Photograph by Cin-Ty Lee.



Figure 12. American Pipit, presumably of the expected eastern subspecies *rubescens*, at North Beach, Maryland, in winter. The buffy underparts, somewhat sparsely streaked sides, the lack of a flaring, dark submalar stripe, the buffy wing-bars, and the gray legs rule out Siberian Pipit. Photograph by James L. Stasz.



Figure 13. American Pipit, presumably of the expected western subspecies *pacificus*, photographed in California in winter. This bird is clearly distinguishable from Siberian Pipit by its paler streaking below (as well as the spotted appearance of the upper breast), the lack of a bold and flaring submalar stripe, the lack of strong eye-ring, the gray legs, and the relatively buffy underparts. The more oval or roundish breast spots of *pacificus* differ slightly from the more elongated breast spots on *alticola* and *rubescens* (cf. Fig. 12). Photograph by Jim Gain.

The Siberian Pipit (*A. r. japonicus*) breeds in central and eastern Siberia from Tunguska to Kamchatka and south to northern Sakhalin and the Kurile Islands (Gabrielson and Lincoln, 1959, Dement'ev and Gladkov 1970, A.O.U. 1989). It is not thought to breed in Alaska (A.O.U. 1991).

The *pacificus* subspecies breeds in the Pacific Cordillera in western North America from the mountains of Oregon north to Alaska (Miller and Green 1987, Campbell et al. 1997), including the Aleutian (Gabrielson and Lincoln 1959) and Pribilof Islands (Thompson and DeLong 1969). Overall, the breeding range is primarily considered to lie west of the Rocky Mountains.

The subspecies *alticola*, sometimes known as the Rocky Mountain race, breeds throughout the Rocky Mountains and outlying ranges from southern British Columbia and Montana, south to New Mexico and Arizona, and west to the eastern Great Basin Ranges (Miller and Green 1987). In the southern part of its range, it has bred in the White Mountains of Arizona and the Sangre de Cristo Range of New Mexico (Hubbard 1978). More recently, it has been discovered as a breeder in California, occurring in the Sierra Nevada as far north as Mono County and as far south as Tulare County (Miller and Green 1987). Isolated breeding pairs have also been reported from the summit of Mount San Gorgonio in the San Bernardino Mountains, California (McCaskie 1978, Miller and Green 1987, Miller 1988), and breeding is suspected above timberline in the White Mountains and on nearby Telescope Peak in the Panamint Mountains (Small 1994). Howell and Webb (1992) reported several birds, presumably of this subspecies, at 2450 m in the Sierra San Pedro Martir, Baja California, including a male engaged in song flights through June, well past the time of spring migration. A specimen of *alticola* was collected 16 April 1942 at 1700 m elevation from Laguna de Las Ranas in El Salvador (University of California, Berkeley Museum of Vertebrate Zoology #86275).

The subspecies *rubescens* breeds from northern Yukon east to western Greenland, and south to southwestern Yukon, northern British Columbia, Northwest Territory, northern Manitoba, northern Ontario, northern Québec, southern Labrador, and Newfoundland (A.O.U. 1983). Breeding may also occur in northern Alaska based on the presence of several specimens of this subspecies collected during the summer at Point Barrow, Alaska (University of California, Berkeley, Museum of Vertebrate Zoology #129421, 129422, 134735). Isolated populations of *rubescens* breed at higher elevations on Gaspé Peninsula and on Mount Katahdin, Maine (A.O.U. 1983) and Mount Washington, New Hampshire (Petersen 1991, Veit and Petersen 1993). A population near Hudson Bay was considered by Oberholser (1974) to be a separate subspecies (*A. r. ludovicianus*), but is essentially identical to *rubescens* and has not been accepted by the American Ornithologists' Union. Another potential subspecies, *A. r. geophilus*, breeding primarily in coastal southern Alaska, was proposed by Oberholser (1974) based on slight differences in plumage, but this subspecies is also not recognized by the American Ornithologists' Union, as it is only marginally distinct from *pacificus*.

Wintering Ranges

Siberian Pipit winters in eastern China and Japan (Gabrielson and Lincoln 1959, Dement'ev and Gladkov 1970, A.O.U. 1983, Brazil 1991), Nepal (Inskipp and Inskipp 1985), Pakistan (Grimmett et al. 1999), northern India, northern Burma, northern Vietnam, southern China (A.O.U. 1983), Hong Kong (King and Dickenson 1975), Taiwan (Chang 1980), and South Korea (Gore and Won 1971). It has been recorded as a vagrant as far south as Myanmar (Burma), northeastern Thailand, and western Tonkin, and it may be regular enough in Israel to be considered a rare winterer (Shirihai 1996).

American Pipits winter in California, Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas, south through Baja California and Mexico to Guatemala (A.O.U. 1983,

Howell and Webb 1995), and east through the Gulf states to the Atlantic coastal plain (Root 1988). Small numbers of wintering birds are found as far north as southern British Columbia, northern Great Basin, southern New England, and rarely in the Great Plains (Root 1988, Veit and Petersen 1993, Campbell et al. 1997). On the southern end of range, there are multiple records of unknown subspecies from the Bahamas and Jamaica (A. O. U. 1998), two records of the species from Belize, both near Punta Gorda (singles 3 November 1999 and 5 November 2001; H. Lee Jones, in litt.), and four records from El Salvador, the most recent being 2 January (one) and 7 April 2002 (5) (Jones 2002a, 2002b). We know of no reports from Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, or Panama.

The breakdown of the wintering range of American Pipits by subspecies is poorly demarcated at present, primarily because of the lack of knowledge in identifying the subspecies and the decline of specimen collection in the later twentieth century. As we discuss in subsequent sections, the field identification of basic-plumaged American Pipits to the subspecies level is difficult and frequently impossible. Thus, the historical descriptions of subspecific wintering status, which we outline below, should be considered tentative.

In general, *rubescens* accounts for most of the eastern wintering populations (Oberholser 1974). The A.O.U. (1957) described *rubescens* as wintering from "Texas, Arkansas, Tennessee, West Virginia (Upshur County), and the lower Delaware Valley south through eastern Mexico to Guatemala, the Gulf coast, and Florida." Oberholser (1972) stated that this subspecies was a common winterer in north-central Texas and as far west as El Paso. Pulich (1988) confirmed that at least some of the specimens taken in Texas were of this subspecies. In Mexico, Miller et al. (1957) reported that this subspecies winters primarily on the Caribbean slope.

Conversely, *pacificus* probably accounts for most of the Pacific Coast populations (Grinnell and Miller 1944), with the A.O.U. (1983) stating that wintering occurs from "southern coastal British Columbia, Oregon, west-central Nevada (Lahontan Valley), and southern Utah to Baja California and western Mexico (south to Oaxaca)." Monson and Phillips (1981) were of the opinion that all wintering pipits in Arizona were of this subspecies. Oberholser (1972) claimed that *pacificus* is a fairly common winterer in Texas, although Pulich (1988) recommended that its status in Texas be reinvestigated. Exactly how far east *pacificus* ranges during winter is unknown.

According to the A.O.U. (1983), the wintering range of *alticola* is largely unknown, but it has been recorded in December from Arizona. (Monson and Phillips [1981], however, were of the opinion that winterers in Arizona are *pacificus*.) Grinnell and Miller (1944) described *alticola* as a rare winter visitant to California but did not elaborate. Their account includes specimens collected from early to mid-April. Five *alticola* specimens collected between 4 March and 12 April in coastal California (Alameda, Santa Clara, and Santa Cruz Counties) are in the University of California, Berkeley MVZ collections (#5334, 37925, 56704, 90691, 146678). Oberholser (1974) indicated that this subspecies had occurred in Texas on 22 March and 10 April. However, these dates coincide with the timing of spring migrants (see below), and thus do not necessarily imply that wintering occurs in Texas. Pulich (1988) was unable to relocate these specimens to verify the report. Miller et al. (1957) state that this subspecies is a little-known winter visitant in Mexico, citing records from Oaxaca, Guanajuato, the Distrito Federal, San Luis Potosi, and Tlaxcala. The lack of knowledge on the wintering status of *alticola* is partly due to the difficulty in identifying the American Pipit subspecies in basic plumage.

TIMING OF MIGRATION AND VAGRANCY

The migratory statuses of Siberian and American Pipits are described here. The vagrancy of American Pipit subspecies is described as a whole because so little is known about the distribution and migratory status at

the subspecies level. Phillips (1991) provides some discussion of the subspecific breakdown of migratory and vagrancy status.

American Pipits in western North America

In western North America, American Pipits are on the move from their breeding grounds by late August in Alaska and have mostly departed by early September. Peak movements occur in the northern part of British Columbia during early September and from late September to early October in the southern part of the province (Campbell et al. 1997). Interestingly, fall transients are about eight times more numerous along the coast than in the interior of British Columbia. Migration is largely over in British Columbia by the end of October, with stragglers continuing into early November (Campbell et al. 1997). Wintering birds arrive in California and Arizona by mid- to late September, with numbers peaking in mid-October (Grinnell and Miller 1944, Garrett and Dunn 1981, Roberson 1984, Small 1994). Winter arrivals as early as the first week of September are considered exceptional (Rosenberg et al. 1991, Small 1994), with arrivals in late August even more so (Grinnell and Miller 1944). A single bird on 1 July from Lassen Peak in northern California was regarded by Grinnell and Miller (1944) as an early fall transient, but it may have been trying to summer, considering that breeding colonies exist in the Oregon Cascades not far to the north. The earliest arrival date for Sonora, Mexico is listed as 21 September by Russell and Monson (1998).

Winterers in the southern part of their range (e.g., southern California) typically stay until mid-April, with a few lingering until early May (Rosenberg et al. 1991). Small (1994) states that spring transients in California occur from mid-April into May. However, a sharp increase in the number of birds between late March and April in British Columbia (Campbell et al. 1997) suggests that wintering birds are on the move well before mid-April, and in all likelihood the spring migration is protracted. In British Columbia, Campbell et al. (1997) noted that the total number of records of spring transients is lower than the number of fall transients by a factor of roughly three. Breeding individuals arrive by the last week of April in southeastern Alaska and by the first week of May in northern Alaska (Gabrielson and Lincoln 1959).

The local populations (most likely *alticola*; Miller and Green 1987) that breed in the Sierra Nevada and San Bernardino Mountains in California arrive on breeding grounds between mid-April and early May (Miller 1988). These stay until late September but occasionally into November (see references in Small 1994).

American Pipits in eastern and central North America

Individuals in the eastern two-thirds of North America are on the move from their breeding grounds in northern Canada by late August, as evidenced by arrivals of fall transients in Ontario between the first week of September through October (Speirs 1985). Sadler and Myres (1976) noted movements during late August in Alberta. In the southern part of Ontario, the earliest arrivals occur in early September and peak during mid- to late October (Speirs 1985). Interestingly, in New York, earliest arrivals are 2 August and 13 August in inland and coastal counties, respectively (Bull 1974), with an extreme date of 13 June (Levine 1998); numbers of transients peak in October. In Alberta, transients pass through Edmonton during the last week of September and have completely passed through by early October (Sadler and Myres 1976). In Minnesota, earliest arrivals appear by mid-September, and in Missouri by mid-September, peaking in early to middle October (Robbins and Easterla 1992). Fall transients pass through Massachusetts primarily during October (Veit and Petersen 1993), and through Cape May, New Jersey from October through November (Stone 1965, Sibley 1997).

Winterers arrive in Tennessee by early October, with exceptionally early arrivals in September and even late August (Robinson 1990); in Arkansas by late September, peaking in October and November (James 1986); in Louisiana during October (Lowery 1955); in Alabama by early October (Imhof 1962); in Florida by October (Kale and Maehrer 1990); and in Texas by late September (Pulich 1988). Fall transients apparently pass through by the end of November, with stragglers or facultative migrants continuing into December through January. Small wintering flocks on the northern edge of wintering range are occasionally encountered in coastal New York, the Lower Hudson River Valley, and rarely the Finger Lakes region (Bull 1974, Levine 1998, W. R. Evans, pers. comm.), along the shores of Lake Erie (Speirs 1985), and at Cape May, New Jersey (Stone 1965, Sibley 1997). Wintering individuals have been recorded as late as February in coastal Massachusetts (Veit and Petersen 1993) and on Christmas Bird Counts in the northern Great Plains (e.g., Missouri; Robbins and Easterla 1992).

Northward migration during spring is probably protracted. In southeastern and central North America, pipits have largely departed their wintering grounds by early May (as in Alabama [Imhof 1962], Texas [Pulich 1988], and Tennessee [Robinson 1990]). However, spring transients are clearly on the move by March throughout much of the interior United States, as exemplified by peak movements during March and early April in Arkansas (James 1986), late March onward in New York (Bull 1974), and mid-March in Missouri (Robbins and Easterla 1992). At Point Pelee, Ontario spring transients pass through between late March and late May (Speirs 1985). On the southern shores of Lake Ontario, peak passage would seem to be in late April and early May (Levine 1998). In Massachusetts, spring transients pass through from late March to mid-May, with peak counts occurring in April (Veit and Petersen 1993). A curious observation is that spring transients are extremely rare at Cape May, New Jersey (Stone 1965), but this surely has to do with the peninsula's position, which is set off from the Delmarva Peninsula by the Delaware Bay. The relative scarcity of spring transients is also true on the Delmarva, which is cut off from mainland Virginia by the Chesapeake Bay (Coastal Virginia Wildlife Observatory, in litt.) Likewise, in Massachusetts, spring migrants are considerably less numerous than fall transients in Massachusetts (Veit and Petersen 1993). In Alberta, spring transients pass through during the first week of April and later (Sadler and Myres 1976), but we were unable to find information regarding the arrival of breeders in northernmost Canada. Based on arrival dates in northern Ontario around early May (Speirs 1985), it is likely that breeders arrive in northern Canada by mid- or late May. In the southern part of its breeding range, for instance at Guanella Pass in Colorado (*alticola*), pipits return during late April to early May (Conry 1978).

American Pipits: vagrancy

Published extralimital occurrences of the American Pipit subspecies are few (Phillips 1991). Grinnell and Miller (1944) documented four specimens of *alticola* taken separately during the first two weeks of April in California. Bull (1974) described a specimen of *alticola* collected in Suffolk County, New York on 10 May 1882 (AMNH 25964; Levine 1998). Grinnell and Miller (1944) reported no records of *rubescens* in California, but Rosenberg et al. (1991) suggest that one specimen collected 22 December 1902 at Yuma, Arizona might pertain to this subspecies. Extralimital occurrences of birds in the Buff-bellied Pipit complex in Bermuda probably pertain to this subspecies (A.O.U. 1973).

Farther afield, vagrant nominate *rubescens* have been reported in Germany, Italy, Iceland, Ireland, and Britain, primarily between the dates of mid-September and late October (see Evans 1994 for review). At least

one, if not both, of the Italy sightings may in fact refer to Siberian Pipits (Shirihai and Colston 1987). Two records of Buff-bellied Pipit types exist for Scandinavia, one in Norway and one in Sweden, from December and January. The Scandinavian pipits were identified as *rubescens*, but some features suggest Siberian (Brian J. Small, pers. comm.). The western North American subspecies, *pacificus*, has been recorded in Okinawa, Japan during the winters of 1982-1983 and 1984-1985 and from January to February 1987 (see Brazil 1991 for references).

There is no doubt that *rubescens* is a vagrant to Europe. However, the above compilation suggests that *pacificus* and *alticola* may also be prone to vagrancy, if the above records represent accurate identifications. In addition, one should not assume that *rubescens* does not appear on the Pacific coast during migration or even during winter.

Siberian Pipit: migration and vagrancy

According to Dement'ev and Gladkov (1970), Siberian Pipits commence southward migration during late August and early September, but the departure from breeding grounds may be quite protracted. Breeders in the mountains of Kamchatka begin their descent to lower elevations in early September, but movements continue through September. In northern Sakhalin, southward migration commences in late August/early September, but in southern Sakhalin, the southbound migrants can depart as late as mid-December, particularly in warm winters. The maritime flight from their breeding grounds in Siberia to their wintering grounds in Japan appears to occur in September and October (Dement'ev and Gladkov 1970). According to Brazil (1991), Siberian Pipits arrive in Japan between late October and November. Northward departure from Japanese wintering grounds begins in late March, with the last birds leaving by late May (Dement'ev and Gladkov 1970, Brazil 1991).

In the Palearctic, Siberian Pipit has probably occurred as a vagrant to Italy and is regularly seen in the Middle East during migration and winter (Shirihai and Colston 1987, Shirihai 1996). At Eilat, Israel, Shirihai (1996) states that Siberian Pipits arrive during late October (earliest 22nd) and depart in March to early April (latest 10th). A peak count of 60 at Eilat during the winter of 1985-1986 suggests that Siberian Pipit may in fact overwinter regularly in Israel (Shirihai and Colston 1987), although the numbers seen each winter appear to vary considerably. For example, during the winter of 1988-1989, only four were discovered in Eilat (Shirihai 1996). The Siberian Pipit is considered a very rare visitor in late fall to Hawaii (Pratt et al. 1987) and is considered casual in Iwo Jima, Turkestan, and western Alaska (A.O.U. 1989). Paul E. Lehman (pers. comm.) documented several at Gambell, Alaska during the falls of 1999, 2001, and 2002, from late August through early October. The vast number of Siberian Pipit reports from birders visiting western Alaska are undocumented and may in fact pertain to *pacificus*, which is much more likely (Thede Tobish, pers. comm.).

In North America, few Siberian Pipits have been documented away from western Alaska. The only records outside of Alaska we are aware are a number of records from California and one remarkable record from Sonora, Mexico. The latter bird pertains to a specimen taken 6 June 1958 near Naco, Sonora and reported by Monson and Phillips (1981) as an alternate-plumaged Siberian Pipit. This record represents the first North American record outside of Alaska as well as the only spring record outside of Alaska.

Approximately 18 fall vagrants have been noted in California, although supporting documentation has not been published for all of these sightings (e.g., McCaskie 1992). Some of the records are listed below. An individual found 13 October 1989 in northern California (Del Norte County) constitutes the earliest California record (Erickson et al. 1990) and coincided with an influx of Red-throated Pipits (*A. cervinus*) along the entire Pacific Coast (McCaskie 1990). During the fall of 1991, also coinciding with an

influx of Red-throated Pipits, nine Siberian Pipits may have been recorded in California (McCaskie 1992, Yee et al. 1992): one or 2 at Point Reyes (7-13 October), 3 on the Farallon Islands (13 October to 5 November), one in Bodega (10 November), one in Irvine (25 October), 2 in the Tijuana River Valley (26 October, 11 November), and one in Mission Bay (23 November).

During the fall of 2001, Nick Lethaby discovered a Siberian Pipit with a small number of Red-throated Pipits in Port Hueneme, Ventura County, California 29 October through 3 November (McCaskie and Garrett 2002). This bird was also carefully studied by Birch (Fig. 2). During the same fall, another Siberian Pipit was discovered and studied by Lee on 23 November near Perris, Riverside County, California (Fig. 3; cf. Figs. 4-10). Although the number of Siberian Pipit sightings in California is scarce, it appears that Siberian Pipit records have all coincided with influxes of Red-throated Pipits (McCaskie and Garrett 2002), and the co-vagrancy of these species is also apparent at Gambell, St. Lawrence Island, Alaska in the autumn (Lehman, pers. comm.).

Our above discussion on the vagrancy status of Siberian Pipits in North America is clearly incomplete, as there may potentially be additional sightings that were never formally submitted to rare bird records committees due to Siberian Pipit's subspecific status.

MOLT

The timing of molt is an important factor in determining the age of a bird and affects certain field marks as well (e.g., the appearance of the median and greater coverts). The molt strategy of American Pipits has been studied by Pyle (1997a, 1997b) and that of the Water Pipit (*A. spinoletta spinoletta*) by Jenni and Winkler (1994) and Williamson (1965). We are not aware of any studies conducted on the Siberian Pipit or of any systematic study of molt strategies broken down to the subspecific level of the American Pipits.

According to Pyle (1997a, 1997b), American Pipits have prebasic and prealternate molts. The first prebasic molt occurs between July and September, primarily on summering grounds. This molt is a partial molt, in which zero to all median coverts are replaced, zero to four inner greater coverts are replaced (Pyle states that about 55% of individuals replaced no greater coverts), and sometimes one to two tertials are replaced (in about 25% of the birds). No rectrices are replaced.

The first prebasic is followed by the first prealternate molt, which occurs between January and April, primarily on the wintering grounds or during migration. In the first prealternate molt, zero to four inner greater coverts are replaced, one to three tertials are replaced, and often one to two central rectrices are replaced. The second prebasic molt, after which the bird attains definitive adult plumage, is complete. The adult prealternate molt is similar to the first prealternate. For comparison, the molt strategy of the nominate race of the Water Pipit (*A. s. spinoletta*) is very much like that of American Pipits, but its first prebasic molt may differ in subtle ways. In its first prebasic molt, at most two greater coverts and at most three tertials are molted (Jenni and Winkler 1994).

Knowledge of molt strategy may sometimes allow one to recognize first-fall birds by using the presence or absence of molt limits in the median and greater coverts. Molt limits can be recognized by the contrast between juvenile and replaced feathers, the former tending to be more worn by fall migration, and the latter tending to be fresher and brighter. As will be discussed below, the color and boldness of the tips of greater and median covert feathers are important field characters. However, first-fall birds that have replaced few to none of the median and greater coverts may exhibit substantial wear, potentially reducing the overall size and boldness of the wingbars. In contrast, fall adults after complete prebasic molt should be in fresh plumage.

NOTES ON FIELD IDENTIFICATION IN BASIC PLUMAGE

The key features on which one should focus on when attempting an identification of an American Pipit or Siberian Pipit in basic plumage are: the color and contrast of the median coverts; the size, color, and shape of the submalar stripe; the color of the underparts; the degree and size of streaking; the boldness of the eye-ring; and the color of the legs. These features are chiefly of use for birds in fresh basic plumage, which in American Pipit is held between late August and late December or so. The field marks discussed below (and generalized graphically on the front cover and accompanying the subspecies accounts below) are valid between late August and late January. Between late January and late March, when birds are undergoing prealternate molt, there is something of a gray zone, in which intermediate characters will be apparent. Since the first prebasic molt occurs on the breeding grounds, juvenal plumages are not likely to be encountered on wintering grounds or during migration and are therefore not discussed here.

Siberian Pipit (*A. r. japonicus*) versus American Pipit

Size and overall coloration—Siberian Pipit is by far the most distinctive subspecies of the Buff-bellied Pipit complex (Figs. 4-10). Overall, it appears larger and bulkier than *pacificus* and *alticola*, and in side-by-side by comparisons, its larger size relative to *pacificus* and *alticola* may be noticeable. Siberian overlaps in size with *rubescens*. Siberian differs from American in having dark olive-brown upperparts, appearing darker and browner than the upperparts of American. The underparts of Siberian are generally whiter than those of the American. The sides and chest of Siberian may occasionally be washed with buff, but typically the throat, center of breast, and belly are white, whereas these same regions on *rubescens*, *alticola*, and *pacificus* are generally buffy or off-white (although *pacificus* can be variably whitish below). Compared to the characteristically buffy *rubescens* and *alticola*, Siberian Pipit appears very white below. The most significant overlap in overall coloration is with *pacificus*, which tends to be slightly grayer than *rubescens* and *alticola*. However, in most cases, the underparts of *pacificus* are buffy or gray rather than white.



Underpart streaking—Siberian Pipit is distinctly marked below with long and thick streaks, which are dark brown in color (sometimes appearing black). The streaks on Siberian extend noticeably down the flanks, more so than on American. The underpart streaking on Siberian is reminiscent of Meadow (*A. pratensis*), Olive-backed (*A. hodgsoni*), and Red-throated Pipits (*A. cervinus*). The dark coloration of the streaks contrasts strongly with the white underparts and is also considerably darker than the gray-brown upperparts. Underpart streaking in American is browner and lighter in coloration: in part, too, because of their buffier underparts, the contrast between the streaks and underparts is subdued. A subtle but potentially distinctive feature of the streaks on Siberian is that the streaks tend to coalesce longitudinally, often lending the underparts a "striped" appearance. This feature is likely to be most useful in distinguishing the Siberian from *pacificus* because the streaks on *pacificus* tend to be short and often do not coalesce significantly, giving *pacificus* a somewhat spotted rather than a streaked or striped appearance (Figs. 3, 11, 13). *Rubescens* and *alticola* may show a slightly striped appearance, but the degree of coalescence between streaks is smaller than that on Siberian.

Median wing coverts—The median coverts of Siberian Pipit nearly always have white tips, whereas those of American are characteristically buffy, especially in *rubescens*. Moreover, due to Siberian's grayer and dark-

er upperparts and wings, the white-edged median coverts stand out as white upper wingbars. Even for those Siberian Pipits that are slightly buffy below, we found that the entire upper wingbar appears white. The greater coverts (lower wingbars) on Siberian vary between whitish and buffy and are therefore not diagnostic. On American, the color of the median and greater covert edges is buffy in both cases. We believe that the color of the upper wingbar and the degree of contrast with the wings may be potentially diagnostic in the field for Siberian, but further studies in the field and of museum specimens are needed. It is possible that first-winter birds have whiter median and greater covert tips than do adults.

Eye-ring—Both Siberian and American Pipits exhibit a white eye-ring. While the thickness or completeness of the eye-ring is quite variable in most subspecies, the eye-ring tends to stand out more on Siberian because of its overall darker upperparts.

Submalar stripe—The submalar stripe on Siberian tends to be thick and dark, strongly contrasting with the white underparts and the brown upperparts. The contrast between the submalar stripe and the upperparts in American is generally not as strong, because the submalar stripe on American is not as dark. In many cases, the submalar stripe on American is concolorous with upperpart coloration, whereas the submalar stripe on Siberian is usually distinctly darker than the upperparts.

In addition, the posterior end of the submalar stripe on Siberian tends to be more solidly colored than on American. In American, the individual streaks making up the submalar stripe can often be seen, this effect being more pronounced on *pacificus* than on *rubescens* or *alticola*. Another helpful feature is that Siberian's submalar stripe bulges at its lower end, often flaring into the side of the neck, reminiscent of Richard's Pipit (*A. richardi*) and to a lesser extent Red-throated Pipit. While American Pipit can also display this feature, the degree of flaring is generally less, and in many cases, the lower end of the submalar stripe does not extend beyond the auriculars. The dark submalar stripe of Red-throated may superficially resemble Siberian when seen head-on, so presumed Red-throated Pipits in North America should be carefully scrutinized.

Leg coloration—Siberian Pipit has pink or pale brown legs but never black legs. In general, American has brownish, grayish, or black legs. In this respect, Siberian Pipit more closely resembles Red-throated Pipit than American Pipit. However, we have observed *pacificus* and *rubescens* with pale brown legs. In fact, to see several pale-legged basic-plumaged *pacificus* individuals in a small flock is not unusual (cf. Fig. 13). Thus, while pale legs may signify a potential Siberian, the amount of leg-color variation in American makes it unwise to use leg color as a basis for identification.

American Pipit: subspecific variation

A continuum of variation probably occurs in this species, and thus field identification of American Pipit to the subspecies level may not be possible. Our reasons for addressing this issue are not to encourage subspecific identification but to convey the degree of subspecific variation, thereby refining the ability to separate Siberian from American Pipits of all forms.

The nominate subspecies, *rubescens*, tends to be the buffiest and largest of the three subspecies (Fig. 12). The size difference is very subtle, but differences with *pacificus*, the smallest of the subspecies, might be noticed in the field during direct comparison on level ground.

Rubescens tends to have buffier wingbars than *pacificus* and also tends to have an overall browner plumage than *pacificus*. Streaking on the underparts tends to be slightly more extensive than in *pacificus*, which has a more spotted appearance. *Rubescens* may also



have a slightly bolder submalar stripe than *pacificus* (but not as bold as in Siberian). In addition, the streaks on *rubescens* tend to coalesce laterally in the upper chest region, sometimes forming a continuous band on the chest. In *pacificus*, the streaks do not coalesce as much, giving the breast a more spotted appearance.

Pacificus is the smallest and grayest of the three American subspecies (Fig. 13). The streaks on its underparts tend to be small and short and do not coalesce together laterally or longitudinally. This gives it a spotted rather than streaked or striped appearance.



Median and greater covert tips range from gray to buff but typically not as buff as in *rubescens*. Underpart coloration ranges from gray to buff. Although not typically as buffy as *rubescens*, this subtle difference in the degree of buffiness seemed noticeable only in side-by-side comparison of museum specimens, where lighting conditions on all specimens can be made identical. This feature is unlikely to be reliable in the field or in photographs.

Alticola is intermediate in size between *rubescens* and *pacificus*. Its plumage more closely resembles that of *rubescens* because it generally has a buffy overall coloration, darker underpart streaking than *pacificus*, and buffy edges to the median and greater wing coverts. Like *rubescens*, the streaks on the upper chest appear to coalesce laterally, often forming a continuous band across the upper chest.

We stress that these features of *alticola* are based solely on comparison of museum specimens. Identification to subspecies was based primarily on range. We assumed that those specimens (n=6) collected in Texas during the winter that appeared buffier than typical *pacificus* were *alticola*. As such, we consider our notes on basic-plumaged *alticola* to be preliminary—and potentially in error. Further research is necessary to characterize *alticola* in basic plumage.

Conclusions

Field identification of birds in the Buff-Bellied Pipit complex is difficult. Siberian Pipit can generally be separated in the field from the American subspecies using a combination of field marks, particularly aspects of the wingbar's color, the overall color of plumage, the degree of streaking ventrally, the thickness of the submalar stripe, the boldness of the eye-ring, and the leg color, whereas the field identification of the American complex to the subspecies level needs further study, but we hope that this preliminary outline of subspecific plumage variation in American Pipits brings us a step closer to this goal.

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Editors' Notebook

Regional realignments

With the rise in the popularity in birding in recent years and the acceleration of communication through the Internet, reports—as well as documented records—of notable birds have increased at a pace perhaps never before seen on this continent. This pace has occasioned some growing pains for a journal that has lived through most of its 85 years at a very different and gentler pace, and the structure of future issues of this journal will represent an attempt to adapt to the new high-speed world of birding.

In the past, to be sure, regional editors received reams of material, at least in heavily birded or heavily populated regions. We recall tales of editors sitting down to distill the contents of letters and dossiers stacked two feet high for the fall season; the composition of the regional report could take weeks, with drafts passed back and forth by mail, carefully typed, edited, and retyped, and then typeset through the Audubon offices. The amount of work in producing a journal back then seems Herculean to an editor accustomed to receiving and sending all material in electronic form—no paper, no postage, no red pen. We have it easy today, by comparison.

But at least, in the past, the photocopied field notes and summaries that reached regional editors usually carried some semblance of details about the less-usual birds reported; regional editors developed a long-term epistolary, if not a direct personal, relationship with contributors over the years; and contributors often felt compelled, without being asked, to supply a photograph or two to support their documentation. Rumors of “interesting” birds rarely made it into print.

Regional editors in the current era face a different set of practices. The Internet is alive with tantalizing bird sightings, many of them doubtlessly correct, many of them clearly wishful thinking, few of them documented with photographs or by any other means that would meet even minimal standards for inclusion in regional reports. To chase down each report in a large or heavily-birded region is the equivalent of taking the plunge into Lewis Carroll's looking glass—what seemed substantive recedes or vanishes, while the fantastic looms large. The technology that would seem at first to ease an editor's work can in fact multiply his or her tasks beyond accomplishing, or at least frustrate even the most patient among us. There can be no doubt that thousands of tales speak against this scenario, marvelous triumphs in which a clever birder finds a bird of interest, photographs it, posts the finding and the photograph, and provides nearly instantaneous documentation and bird-finding information to the public. It is refreshing that such tales are increasingly common. And refreshing, too, that birds of uncertain identity are photographed and become the stuff of international conversations that extend for weeks in the public domain (and, no, not just about gulls!).

In addition to the billions of bird bits and bytes on the Internet, the flowering of states' and provinces' records committees means still more correspondence that requires a regional editor's attention; in regions that contain parts of (as many as) eleven states, such correspondence is ever more taxing and time-consuming. With most states east of 86° W now being partitioned between two reporting regions, we have reached the breaking point for some editors in terms of their ability to compose a balanced report in a timely, nuanced, and thoughtful fashion. This is not a matter of talent but one of time and administrative difficulty: the larg-

er, more heavily populated or birded the region, the more complex it will be, and the greater the burden will be of belated material and correspondence from subregional editors and contributors. And so we have been faced in recent years with the question of how to continue to ease regional editors' increasing burdens while keeping the journal a manageable and engaging one.

In their attempts to remedy the problems associated with proliferating bird reports, already apparent in the past decade, previous journal editors have used a number of strategies, such as dividing bird records by bird family among a team of editors, or dividing the records by season, that is, among “seasonal” regional editors who write one report per year. Both strategies tend to make the work of editing the journal a more centripetal experience—with less active involvement with the journal on a regular basis, regional editors inevitably find that their ties to *North American Birds* loosen, and the consistency of the enterprise is lessened. The work of the journal's editor shifts from coordination of reports and articles from several dozen people to the management of a large contingent of people, with late-arriving or incomplete regional reports an increasing worry. Both strategies, certainly, have been preferable to the outright loss of regional reports and have kept the journal afloat through difficult times.

But another strategy for reducing our growing pains—the subdivision of regions—has been quite successful over many decades and shows no disadvantages. Arizona and New Mexico have been separated into two regions, as have the likewise enormous states of Colorado and Wyoming, Utah and Nevada, formerly all merged into the Mountain West region. In the more distant past, in which huge areas of northeastern Canada were part of a region that extended down to New York, the results of subdivision have likely been inarguably positive, for editors and for readers alike. Early in the journal's history, reporting regions' boundaries were based on a set of factors that included birders' regional “stomping grounds,” various conceptions of biogeographic provinces, editors' interests, and political boundaries. All of these are reasonable factors to consider when devising reporting regions. The reality of the current era, however, is that bird records committees and publications (as well as Internet groups and listserves) are rarely based on any but the last of these—the boundaries of nations, states, and provinces. As much as we might feel affection for the very rough biogeographic regions called “Appalachia” or “Middlewestern Prairie,” these designations do not correspond neatly to the way in which bird records are reported, reviewed, and published. Moreover, sadly, there is not very much actual native prairie in most of the states that have fallen under the rubric of the “Middlewestern Prairie.” Few regions, if any, have followed unambiguous biogeographic lines.

And so the decision of the editorial team here, in concert with the regional editors, has been to move in the direction of smaller, more easily managed regions that are defined predominantly by the boundaries of U. S. states, rather than biogeographic breaks. All of the changes that will appear in the next issue, Volume 57, Number 1 (the Fall Migration 2002) pertain to the eastern and middlewestern regions south of Canada. The introductory sections of the regional reports that follow spell out these changes in detail, but, in brief, the East will now have the following reporting regions:

- **Hudson-Delaware** (New York, New Jersey, Delaware only): Editors Robert Paxton, Joseph Burgiel, Steve Kelling, Richard Veit, and David Cutler;
- **Eastern Highlands & Upper Ohio River Valley** (Pennsylvania, Ohio, West Virginia): Editor Bob Leberman;
- **Middle Atlantic** (all of Virginia, Maryland, and the District of Columbia): Editor Marshall J. Iliff;
- **Southern Atlantic** (all of North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia): Editor Ricky Davis;
- **Illinois & Indiana**: Editor Ken Brock;
- **Iowa & Missouri**: Editors Robert I. Cecil (winter), James J. Dinsmore (summer), William Eddleman (fall), and Roger McNeill (spring);
- **Tennessee & Kentucky**: Editors Chris Sloan and Brainard Palmer-Ball;
- **New England** (no changes): Editorial team unchanged; and
- **Central Southern** (Florida west of the Apalachicola River, all of Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Arkansas): Editorial team unchanged.

Consult the various regional reports for email addresses for new regional editors.

Previously, 16 U. S. states were broken up among regions; we now have only Florida, California, and Montana subdivided, at the urging of editors and contributors from those parts of the world. In pairing off smaller states, we attempted to combine them in ways that had at least some biogeographic sense—Kentucky and Tennessee, for example, have remarkable similarities in both their eastern thirds and western two-thirds—and to pair states that are birded by people from neighboring states: Illinois and Indiana fit nicely, as do Iowa and Missouri in that respect. The ornithological ties between West Virginia and Pennsylvania are not well known to those who live outside those states, but they make a pairing logical, as do their similar avifaunas over broad areas. Eastern Ohio fits well with those states ornithologically, and although western Ohio clearly has stronger affinities with the Midwest, we chose not to fragment the state among multiple reporting regions. In fact, we considered dozens of ways to reorganize the regions, and our arrangement, though imperfect, should work well toward the goals of making the regional editors' work more manageable and refined and making the production of the journal a smoother and more reliable process.

—Edward S. Brinkley
 —Stephen J. Dinsmore
 —Alvaro Jaramillo
 —Paul E. Lehman

Our contributions & our thanks

How gratifying it was to open the recent issue of *The Auk* (Vol. 119) and peruse the "Literature Cited" section of the "Forty-third Supplement to *The American Ornithologists' Union Check-list of North American Birds*!" Eleven different publications of the A. B. A. are cited, and most of these are articles from this journal. We often think of old *North American Birds* as an informal publication, digesting the discoveries of "birders" across the continent. But our articles also advance proper ornithological questions, most of which arise from "curious" field experiences of careful birders—as in this issue, Cin-Ty Lee and Andrew Birch's encounters with several subspecies of American Pipit in California, or Paul Buckley and

Shai Mitra's informal but rigorous study of their local wintering brant on Long Island, New York.

In both cases, the authors' discerning observations of their respective flocks revealed several nonconformists, and in both cases, their observations led the teams of authors to delve deeply into the literature on American Pipit and Brant, as well as into the museum collections, with the result that both discovered and filled gaps in our knowledge of these difficult subspecies groups. Both papers summarize our current understanding of taxonomic (and to a lesser extent field identification) problems with these groups, but both advance our knowledge by their inclusion of field experiences and their analysis of these experiences in the greater context of recent Eurasian ornithological research. For both papers, a broad correspondence with colleagues around the entire northern hemisphere was required, as well as travel to various museums. The results, we think you will find, make for fascinating reading and will hopefully bring us all to study our pipits and brant more carefully. And we hope, too, that papers such as these will stimulate readers to submit manuscripts on their own "curious" field experiences.

Articles such as these are the product of much behind-the-scenes teamwork. We are much indebted to a crew of hardworking reviewers who helped improve all of the manuscripts that eventually become articles for Volume 56: Per Alström, Steve N. G. Howell, Guy McCaskie, Douglas B. McNair, J. Van Remsen, Jr., Paul E. Lehman, Kimball L. Garrett, P. A. Buckley, Stephen J. Dinsmore, and Richard Millington. For financial underwriting of *North American Birds*, another species of teamwork, we thank our friends at **Chevron Texaco Energy Research and Technology Company**, in particular Pat O'Brien of the Environmental Unit, who have stood by us through the tempests of publication and seen us to the firm financial ground on which the journal now rests. We hope that this and future sponsors of the journal will soon bring the journal into even more productive pastures. A fundraising effort to advance the quality and augment the contents of the journal, currently known as "The Friends of *North American Birds*," will soon be announced; we are delighted by this initiative, as well as by the tireless activity of A. B. A.'s Director of Publications, Allan Burns, on the journal's behalf.

We are in the happy situation, too, of being able to announce a few of the fine articles forthcoming in the next volume. These will be: Hybridization between an Elegant Tern and a Sandwich Tern in West-Central Florida by Richard T. Paul, Bill Pranty, Ann F. Paul, and Ann B. Hodgson, and David J. Powell; Notes on vagrancy in Brown-headed Nuthatch, with attention to recent range expansion and long-term habitat changes, by Frank Renfrow; Hybridization between Glossy and White-faced Ibises, by James W. Arterburn and Joseph A. Grzybowski; Vagrancy of Gray Kingbird in North America, by George L. Armistead and Marshall J. Iliff; and Occurrence of "Dark-bellied Brant" in North America, by P. A. Buckley, S. S. Mitra, and E. S. Brinkley. Down the road, we're hoping to have ready for publication Anthony W. White's "Status of certain seabirds in the Bahama Islands and adjacent waters" and Angus Wilson's "Black-tailed Godwits in the Americas: Patterns of occurrence and the vexing question of subspecies." All of these articles provide fine summaries of their subjects' changing distribution and vagrancy (and in two cases, the resultant hybridization), and all represent some of the very best work of field observation and analysis on and off the continent. We look forward to Volume 57 immensely.

—Edward S. Brinkley
 —Matthew F. Sharp



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The Changing Seasons: Drought, Fire, Plague, and a Penguin



Droughts and fires occasion summer wandering in a great many species, as the birding annals of June—July 2002 attest. But how did this Humboldt Penguin come to be caught in fishing nets off Prince of Wales Island, Alaska on 18 July 2002? *Photograph courtesy of Guy Demmert.*

Matthew F. Sharp

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(email: sharp@acnatsci.org)

Summer is supposed to represent a lull, a time when birds are at their most sedentary. With many having completed their northward “spring” migration, they raise young before moving south again in “autumn.” The scenario is, of course, misleading in the context of a great many species. The accompanying photograph of a **Humboldt Penguin** caught 18 July 2002 by fishermen near Noyes Island off of Prince of Wales Island, Alaska provides a needed reminder that completely unexpected birds turn up even during supposedly static seasons such as summer. Whether this bird wandered northward from the southern hemisphere under the influence of seawater currents, strayed from a coastal zoo, aquarium, or theme park, or escaped from a foreign fishing vessel on which it was kept as a “pet,” we’ll never know. Whatever its source, the bird turned up at a time when the extreme, even the absurd seemed to be the norm in the world of birds and birding.

Climatic Patterns

This summer season was again marked by superlative climatic conditions—chiefly extreme heat and continued drought—through much of the continent. This undoubtedly led to the displacement of many birds,

entire populations perhaps, by the drought and widespread fires in northern Mexico, the northern portion of the Baja California Peninsula, southern California, the arid Southwest, the Great Basin, and the Central Rockies. Few regional editors commented in detail on the displacement *per se*, but most regional reports in the vicinity of the drought and fires contain numerous early dates for migrants, records of wanderers at odd altitudes, and birds out of habitat and range.

To back up a bit to the season’s beginnings: the cold and wet conditions in late May and June in the northern Rockies and northwestern boreal forests are believed to have delayed arrival of many migrant breeding species (Dinsmore 2002) and ultimately to have led to very poor reproductive success for a wide variety of northern-nesting species. As Michael Harrison put it, Alberta experienced “all four seasons in June and July, sometimes in one day.” Snowfall in both June and July in the mountains of that province certainly must have made things difficult for montane breeding species there. In the central portion of the continent, climate was more variable, with intra-regional differences in both heat and precipitation. Torrential rains came in northeastern North Dakota and northwestern Minnesota, where flooding was a problem, while South Dakota and much of the northern Great Plains were under drought conditions, as were most of the southern Great Plains, especially Nebraska. The Great Lakes, Middlewestern Prairie, and Central Southern regions received more rain than areas to the west or east, though some areas in all three regions suffered below-normal water levels. South-central Texas experienced severe floods.

U.S. Drought Monitor July 30, 2002

Valid 8 a.m. EDT

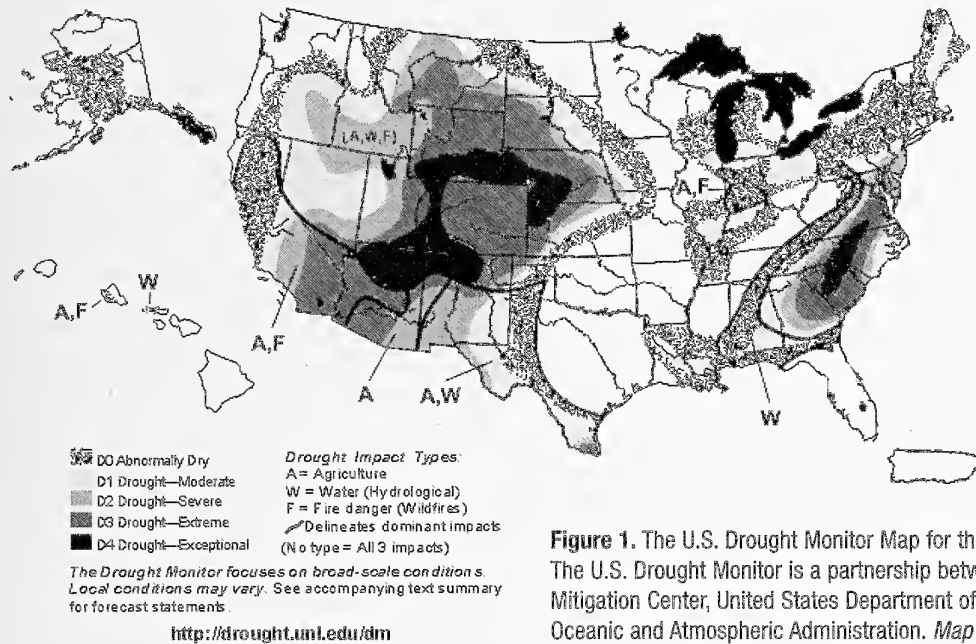


Figure 1. The U.S. Drought Monitor Map for the period ending 30 July 2002. The U.S. Drought Monitor is a partnership between the National Drought Mitigation Center, United States Department of Agriculture, and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Map courtesy of NDMC-UNL.

With the exception of Florida, where heavy rain brought much-needed water back to dry wetlands, the entire East Coast suffered under drought or near-drought. A cold late spring, with substantial snow as late as 18 May in New England, led to nest failure in some closely monitored early nesters such as Peregrines and Bald Eagles, as well as cavity nesters such as Eastern Bluebird in the Northeast. The wet, cool early June did help ameliorate the effects of an exceptionally hot and dry July in New England and the Hudson-Delaware region. To the south, it was hot and dry, with many areas experiencing severe drought, especially in Georgia, Virginia, Maryland, and North Carolina—the Piedmont in particular. However, unlike drought-stricken areas in the West, adverse effects on the reproductive success of breeding birds were not described here, and regional editors called the nesting season “largely successful” (Hudson-Delaware) or “relatively successful” (Southern Atlantic Coast), though these are impressions based on anecdotal evidence rather than comparisons of standardized long-term data sets. An exception was the Middle Atlantic Coast region, where weak patterns of unseasonal occurrences, as in the summer of 1999, led Iliff to speculate that failed breeding birds from the higher elevations might have been displaced eastward by dry conditions.

Birds’ variable responses to dry conditions across the continent, in a summer that was arguably the driest since the 1930s, made for interesting regional commentary and inter-regional comparisons. Whereas birds in the arid regions of the West are adapted to the extremes of those climates (including frequent fires in some areas)—and may have a greater tendency to wander when conditions prohibit successful nesting—eastern birds inhabit a comparatively more homogenous environment, one in which wandering might offer less advantage in terms of finding necessary resources. This season was distinguished by above-average numbers of high-intensity fires in the Southwest and Mountain West especially. Of course, when read closely, regional reports from almost all regions in all years include details of birds in unusual locations, at unexpected elevations, or out of season; but this summer, the Southern Pacific Coast report seemed particularly loaded, with a number of mountain- or foothill-breeding species making unusual appearances in California’s Central

Valley. It is tempting to see these unusual records as effects of drought and fires, as in past dry seasons (e. g., summer 1996).

Interestingly, the two regions reporting the most moderate weather conditions, Texas and the Pacific Northwest, also found the season to be full of exciting strays and vagrants. Mlodinow called the season “a magnificent one for birding,” and Lockwood, Shackelford, and Sekula described it as “one of the most exciting in recent years.” Totally unrelated to drought or fire, vagrant-of-the-season honors go to the **Juan Fernández Petrel** 80 km off of Brookings, Oregon 7 June (only the second report for North American waters), a well-documented male **Siberian Blue Robin** in a garden in Dawson, Yukon 9 June (first for the North American mainland), an apparent juvenile **Belcher’s Gull** at Natural Bridges State Park, Santa Cruz County, California 6 July (potentially a state and continental second), and a **White-collared Swift** at Rondeau Provincial Park, Ontario 10 June (a first for Canada). If there were a category for rarest hybrid, the award would surely go to the apparent **Sutton’s Warbler** at Sandyston, New Jersey in early June. Who says summer is boring?

Drought

The season’s dry conditions made headlines in newspapers across the nation. According to the *National Drought Monitor*, “more than one-third (about 36 percent) of the contiguous United States was in severe to extreme drought, based on the Palmer Drought Index, at the end of June 2002. This is comparable to the size and duration of the drought that peaked across the U.S. during the summer of 1988, but only the Dust Bowl of the 1930s and the Drought of the 1950s stand out as more significant [...] droughts since the beginning of the twentieth century.” Perhaps more tellingly, tree-ring data show no periods of drought more extensive or prolonged than the 1930 dust bowl period in the past 300 years (Cook et al. 1996). So the current conditions are severe even when considered from the longer perspective of three centuries. The National Drought Monitor Map (Fig. 1) shows the areas in the United States hit the hardest by the end of the reporting period. Drought conditions were also extreme in the

northern Baja California Peninsula, northern Mexico, the Bahamas, and the Canadian Prairies.

Droughts' effects on birds vary widely, but in terms of reproductive success, the effects of drought are generally negative. Well-known effects include delayed, reduced, or abandoned breeding attempts, nest failure, high rates of nestling mortality, and unusual patterns of dispersal. Teasing out broad-scale patterns of drought-induced avian dispersal from the regional reports is a tenuous task, but several widespread movements of conspicuous species do seem drought-related. The most dramatic and obvious effects of drought are on waterbirds, whose breeding biology is directly tied to bodies of standing water.

American White Pelicans are renowned wanderers, and this season they were showing up in large numbers all over the continent, possibly displaced and/or failed breeding birds from the western half of the United States and southern Canada. In Québec, White Pelicans sightings became routine, with a total of 15-17 individuals estimated, while a single bird was reported in Ontario. To the east in New Brunswick, there were seven sightings, possibly of the same bird, between 13 June and 26 July. White Pelican numbers were high in the Southeast at the end of June, with 60+ in South Carolina, and 770 counted at Lake Apoka, Florida, though these were likely both concentrations of regional residents, rather than western birds. A new breeding colony in Minnesota produced 48 birds in July, and the colony in Green Bay, Wisconsin showed continued growth. One hundred were noteworthy in Shelby, Alabama 28 June, as were 460 on Lake Tennessee on 6 July. The species was widespread in central Texas, with counts of over 100 in a few locations in July. They were noted in both Arizona and New Mexico, with a high count of 240 at Mosquero New Mexico on 16 June. The species turned up at a couple unexpected locations in Montana with 20 in Somers, Flathead County being especially unusual. Forty-six at Swan Lake in British Columbia 4 June to 12 July were thought to be drought refugees. Numbers were above average on the western side of the Cascade crest in Washington and Oregon, though not as high as last summer's.

Unrelated to the situation of White Pelicans, Brown Pelicans appeared to be on the move in many places, especially the Southwest. Beginning in the middle of June, reports began piling up in Arizona, where somewhere between 50 and 100 birds were seen over the season, some of them dead along roads south of Phoenix. These birds were almost all juveniles, which suggests that prey species may have crashed in the Gulf of California (Sea of Cortez). At Mono Lake, California, two Brown Pelicans in June provided fifth and sixth county records, and there are very few state records from east of the Sierra. Records of the species from Colorado are few, so one at Big Meadows Reservoir in Mineral County 2 July could have been related to the Arizona influx to the south. On the other hand, inland singles in southeastern Tennessee, Cedar County, Nebraska, and Benton County, Mississippi were more likely to have come from the Gulf of Mexico.

A predictable effect of drought is the negative impact on the breeding success of waterfowl. Such effects were noted in the Northern Great Plains, where production was noted as "down significantly from recent years." Conversely, in Minnesota, where rain was abundant in places, waterfowl counts for Blue-winged Teal and Mallard showed an increase over last year. Drought may have led to record numbers of "southern ducks" such as Canvasback, Redhead, and Ring-necked Ducks being seen at Churchill Manitoba in mid- to late June as well as to unseasonably large counts of Redheads in Texas (86 near New Deal on 26 July) and Oregon (41 total from several locations). The diversity and numbers of waterfowl in Arkansas (nine species), and western Tennessee (11 species) in June and July—including a remarkable count of 150 Ruddy Ducks on a minnow farm in Prairie, Arkansas 22 June—may have been indicated failed and

displaced breeders. Unseasonable waterfowl reports from Québec (including prairie-nesting species such as Redhead, Ruddy Duck, and Northern Shoveler), Virginia, California (especially Blue-winged Teal), and all through the prairie states were also attributed to drought in the usual breeding areas, but widespread reports, for instance, of Ross's Geese in the Lower 48 probably indicated injured birds, more numerous in summer now that the species has become a regular winter visitor across so much of the continent.

Wilson's Phalaropes were also apparently dispersed by drought, and this contributed to an impression of greater abundance in areas where migrants have been considered scarce over the past decade (especially in the East, where more were seen in fall 2002 migration as well). Record-high numbers at the traditional Mono Lake staging area in California were impressive to say the least: Joe Jehl estimated as many as 130,000 there on the last day of July. Wilson's Phalaropes were plentiful throughout the Midwest, and nesting was suspected in Iowa, Ohio, and in Gibson and Allen Counties in Indiana. A nest with four eggs at the Kankakee Sands wetlands, Newton, Indiana provided the first nesting record in 60 years for that state. The species also turned up in 35 counties in Minnesota, tripling the recent summer average. Finally, the species made news in New England, where two nests were found in Scarborough Marsh, Cumberland, Maine 14 June, with two juveniles subsequently seen there in July—only the third documented breeding record south of Canada in the East. Was this event, some 2000 km east of the core breeding range, attributable to the drought? In Texas, other possibly drought-displaced shorebirds were the 2 Mountain Plovers near Texline, Dallam County 13 June and one near Dalhart, Hartley County 9 June, the first summer records in Texas since 1986. In Minnesota, the state's second modern-era summer record of Long-billed Curlew was plausibly connected to drought in the Great Basin, but the species went otherwise unmentioned.

The response of passerines to drought is generally harder to gauge. Michael Patten and Doug Bolger documented the very nearly complete breeding failure of several species—Rufous-crowned Sparrow, Wrentit, and Spotted and California Towhees—in southern California, and the impact of severe drought here could not be clearer. A subtler indication of droughts' effect can be inferred from the scores of out-of-place passerines during the small window between northbound and southbound movements—though whether these wanderers failed because of drought or some other reason is essentially impossible to determine. Nonetheless, a wide variety of displaced, nonbreeding birds were noted in the Mid-Atlantic, the Southwest, the Great Plains, Montana, and the Southern Pacific Coast.

Fire

The other environmental event of the summer was drought's close relative, fire. If one listened to the popular news media, it sounded as though entire western states were ablaze. In fact, by the end of July 58,254 individual fires had consumed over 4,167,095 hectares in the United States and Canada, according to the Canadian Forest Service. The majority of fires occurred in the southwestern and western United States, in British Columbia, and in Alberta. The ecological ramifications of fire are well studied, and so it is possible to speculate about this season's fires' effects on breeding birds. Many species, of course, depend on periodic burns for the generation of appropriate habitat. Exacerbated by decades of fire suppression strategies, many of the forest fires this season were extremely hot and catastrophic, with repercussions on forest ecosystems that will last for decades. The solution for the future—contrary to the current administration's proposed policies—is certainly not to allow lumber companies' unfettered access to National Forest lands, though management in the form of selective logging is perhaps appropriate in some areas to avoid

uncontrolled fire and even to promote "healthy" burns in the future. Fire in the political arena is still a highly controversial topic.

Unfortunately, in many of the most heavily burned areas (Arizona, New Mexico, the Great Basin, Colorado, and remote parts of Québec's boreal forests), observer coverage was minimal, and patterns of bird movement were hard to detect in the reports from those regions. Furthermore, in the absence of singed rectrices, whether individual birds were displaced by fire or drought is impossible to determine and is for most the part irrelevant in terms of overall distribution patterns. One species that made big news in all the southwestern regions was Lawrence's Goldfinch. After a spring invasion of the species into the Middle Pacific Coast region, they were noted in many unexpected locations. A total of 12 was reported June and July in Arizona, where there was previously only one July record and no June records. A juvenile found in P.O. Canyon, New Mexico provided the first state record since February 2000. And Texas's first summer record came in the form of an adult male at Guadalupe Mountains National Park. As Gary Rosenberg put it: "Something was definitely going on with Lawrence's Goldfinch this summer." Drought and fire seem the most obvious stimuli for this species's unusual summer dispersal. It is more difficult to interpret records of multiple Common Redpolls from the coasts of southern Oregon and south Texas, or the single White-winged Crossbills in South Carolina and Nebraska in the middle of summer; but these would seem more likely to be holdovers from the previous autumn and winter flight of both species, which produced first remarkable records across the southernmost states from California to Texas to Alabama to Florida.

Birds on the move I: Expansion

Several species were notable for their continuing range expansions; most of these birds show patterns in the long-term (one to two decades) and so were probably not dispersed by drought, though in the case of waterbirds such as ibis, one guess may be as good as the next. In keeping with recent years' records of vagrants, White-faced Ibis continued to be found at new locations in the East. In addition to the now-annual reports from Delaware and New Jersey, two in New York were great finds. North Carolina got its first well-documented record, while Minnesota reported multiples, with four continuing from the spring in Murray County. White Ibis is also a regular stray to the north of its usual range, and slightly more were reported this season than usual. Along the East Coast, this species rarely crosses the Delaware Bay, such that Delaware has more records of the species than does New Jersey. Altogether this season, seven were reported in Delaware, including a group of five at Cape Henlopen State Park. A total of five was noted in southern Appalachia, from eastern Tennessee and western North Carolina, where they found more frequently than in past years. In the Central Southern region, they were found breeding in small numbers at a few locations north of usual, and one made it as far north as Indiana, to the very productive Kankakee Sands wetlands.

Truly "Southern" waterfowl are surely showing up more frequently out of range, though the picture could be clouded by escapees from bird collections. Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks have been showing up at northern locations with increasing frequency in recent years, such that a pattern of dispersal is becoming discernable; both the expanding Texas and Florida populations could be involved here. Notable northerly reports, following this spring's record of a single bird in Suffolk County, New York on 8 May, include a flock of 22 on a pond in McClellanville, South Carolina 5 June (state records increasing there and in Georgia); one at the Milwaukee Coast Guard Impoundment in Wisconsin (a potential state fourth); one in Delaware County, Indiana (potential state first); five in western Tennessee (and "becoming commonplace" in nearby Luling,

Louisiana); and 11 at Red Slough Wildlife Management Area, McCurtain County, Oklahoma, where the species has appeared frequently in recent years. (A flock of five on the Nansemond River, Virginia 11 August, just after the summer reporting period, would furnish that state's fourth record.) Other water-associated birds continued to expand, even to breed, well beyond typical range. Black-necked Stilts had a successful season in the Midwest and bred successfully for the first time in Indiana; large numbers were also reported from Louisiana. In the Pacific Northwest, much news: a nest in British Columbia produced four fledglings, for the first breeding record in that province, and stilts continued their exploration of Oregon and Washington.

Doves, doves, and more doves. Eurasian Collared-Dove was mentioned at least 25 states's reports, with 2 in Alamo Township, Kalamazoo County providing Michigan with a first report. Northern confirmed breeding came from Northampton County, Virginia on the East Coast (first state nesting) and from Alberta and Saskatchewan in the continent's center. Not to be forgotten, Mourning Doves continue an expansion in the Maritime Provinces: the first nesting for the French islands of St. Pierre and Miquelon was finally recorded, and two broods were documented at St. Lawrence, Newfoundland. White-winged Doves were slightly less numerous than their counterparts the collared-doves, with reports from about 19 states including Washington state; Alabama confirmed its first breeding record of the species. To the south, Belize noted expansion of the species as well.

A species that shows a pattern of summer dispersal similar to that of White-winged Dove is Scissor-tailed Flycatcher. Atlantic Canada had two reports, one from New Brunswick and the other from Nova Scotia, and two each were in Ontario (one sitting in a kingbird nest) and Québec. Other northerly birds were at Kenosha, Wisconsin and St. Adolphe, Manitoba. Pushing the limits of the breeding range, a pair raised at least three young near Monroe, North Carolina for the third consecutive year. In the Midwest east of the Mississippi River, they were noted at two locations in Illinois, and remarkably two pairs nested in western Kentucky. Down South, pairs were found nesting in Mississippi, Arkansas, and Alabama. True to form, the species was also detected to the northwest and west of typical range. To the West, two pairs nested in Prowers County, Colorado, with two others elsewhere in the state, one was at Summer Lake, New Mexico, and California had one at Año Nuevo State Reserve for two weeks in July.

Continuing the trend from past summers, Mississippi Kites were found in unprecedented numbers in Massachusetts, with an astonishing one-day total of *nine* recorded at North Truro on the first of June. The usual scattering of Mississippi Kites was reported in the Hudson-Delaware region as well, but daily counts up to 18 birds were considered quite high in southernmost Virginia, where nesting is clearly ongoing but still unconfirmed. Two were observed at Cape May, New Jersey on the intriguing date of 6 July, while to the west in Pennsylvania, presumably the same subadult was seen in Northampton and Bucks Counties through 26 June. In the Midwest and West, Mississippi Kites made it as far north as Minnesota and were reported from all six middlewestern prairie states and from Colorado. Another long-term (ca. two-decade) expansion from the South is that of Black Vulture: four were in Massachusetts; a potential first summer record came from Michigan at Manitou Is. 16 July; and nesting was confirmed for the second consecutive year in Coshocton, Ohio. It is traditional to attribute the expansion of these species to the warming of the continent (and the earth); time will tell. Meanwhile, Carolina Wren is now confirmed as a nesting species in the Atlantic Provinces region, at Grand Manan Island, New Brunswick, Orchard Oriole now breeds in Québec, Blue Grosbeaks flirt with southern Manitoba and Saskatchewan, White-eyed Vireos fledged young in Boulder, Colorado, and Summer Tanager

was confirmed nesting on Long Island, New York. Can sweet iced tea be far behind?

In contrast to the push of southern species northward, only a few species appear to be expanding from north to south, it would seem, or from the Midwest to the Northeast (the anomalous Wilson's Phalarope records notwithstanding). Merlins, which are expanding as breeders in New York and New England (with single lingerers south to Virginia in June), are one exception; Sandhill Cranes are another. Cranes made news in New England by successfully raising young for the third consecutive year in northern Kennebec County, Maine. Additional cranes were reported from New Brunswick, Newfoundland, Rhode Island, New York, Virginia, and New Hampshire: two birds at separate locations in upstate New York raised the prospect of breeding there, while one at Smith's Swoope, Augusta County, Virginia in mid-July provided an unprecedented summer record for the state. A clear sense of what's going on with cranes is very difficult to obtain, as former captives have been reintroduced willy-nilly in unusual locations (15 in eastern North Carolina in May 1999, for instance; whereabouts unknown) and have even been found breeding with feral Common Cranes in New Jersey. Moreover, the species is kept in private collections, not all of which band their birds (one bird at Joe Batts Arm, NF in July was banded, but it was not clear whether this was a wild-banded bird). Nevertheless, with breeding in the Midwest and probably southern Québec in a mode of expansion, the Maine breeding record, and probably the summering birds to the north and the south, suggest a natural reoccupation of former breeding range and prospecting in new areas, every bit as welcome as the kites' pioneering to the north. The hoped-for expansions of Western Meadowlark and Clay-colored Sparrow across the Appalachians and east of the Great Lakes have not materialized; the meadowlark is found less often well out of range, but the sparrow continues to make small inroads.

Eastern-breeding Neotropical migrant passerines can be so regular in the Far West, and so far into June, that to call them "eastern" "spring" "vagrants" becomes problematic in all respects. Rose-breasted Grosbeaks are a good case in point. They seem to have been staging something other than just "spring overshooting" the West Coast in recent years, especially in the Middle Pacific Coast region. A "mere" 25 were reported this summer from that region, with 15 farther south in California (eight from the coast and seven in the interior). Ten were in Arizona, three, plus a pair, were in New Mexico, three in Utah, ten in Oregon, three in Washington, and two were far to the north in British Columbia. The dates span the entire period in all regions. I repeat Don Roberson's question from the spring report: "Will nesting be next?" A much less pronounced pattern of extralimital movement has been evident with Yellow-throated Vireos (among several possible examples) in the West. A female Yellow-throated Vireo paired with a Plumbeous Vireo male near Fort Collins, Colorado was mind-blowing; another in early June at the mouth of the Big Sur River in Monterey County, California was in a place that has hosted several in recent years; and Montana got its first Yellow-throated Vireo, a popular long-staying bird in Columbus. A species to watch, perhaps.

Also in the West, species expanding from south of the international border, always of interest, include the continued summer presence of Short-tailed Hawks in Arizona, plus two more Texas sightings, and a nice incursion of Yellow-green Vireos into southernmost Texas. In western Texas, nesting of MacGillivray's Warbler, Greater Pewee, and Buff-breasted Flycatcher made headlines.

Birds on the move II: Declines

There are a great many species thought to be in long-term decline, particularly in eastern forests, but the regional reports tend to flag only the most precipitous or obvious declines. Cattle Egrets in the Northeast and

Middle Atlantic, for instance, seem to be declining (see the Hudson-Delaware region's S.A. for details). Is this an indication of a larger ecological effect, or part of a normal population cycle of a recently colonized species? The lack of mention of Cattle Egret in any of the southeastern reports could be taken to indicate that no significant trends have been noted, though in areas of greatest abundance, a decline would be less apparent than on the margins of range, particularly in a species that shifts colony locations frequently and that is not carefully studied over large parts of its range. In the Midwest, however, record counts in Minnesota this season suggest a population expansion to the north, while numbers from the Middlewestern Prairie region were similar to counts from the past four years. Recent counts of the species from Noxubee N.W.R. in Mississippi—26,726 in 1998, 35,545 in 2000, and 27,087 in 2001—suggest a stable population in the Central Southern region. It could well be that as farms in the Northeast revert to fields or are converted to housing developments and golf courses, the species is simply losing foraging habitat. By contrast, the continued and clear decline of Black-crowned Night-Heron in the New England and Middle Atlantic regions is worrisome but not likely to be linked to the Cattle Egret's problems. Given the different foraging behaviors of night-herons and Cattle Egret, any factor that affects both would need to be pervasive in the environment.

Two species of eastern warblers have received special monitoring attention in recent years. Golden-winged Warbler is often characterized as a species in serious decline: diminished habitat and competition and hybridization with Blue-winged Warbler are considered to be the causes. The Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology has implemented a Golden-winged Warbler Atlas Project to determine the population size and distribution of the species as well as to identify hybrid zones for management purposes. Zero Golden-winged Warblers and 5 Blue-winged x Golden-winged hybrids reported from New England lend support to the theory that the species is suffering from hybridization with Blue-winged. Northern New Jersey is last stronghold of Golden-winged in that state, with only 50-60 pairs estimated to remain. Atypical songs suggest that hybridization with Blue-winged Warbler is occurring there as well. Northwestern New York is already considered a hybrid zone, and the number of hybrids reported from that area lends support to the designation. The good news comes solely from Appalachia, where surveys in West Virginia found more than twice as many Golden-winged as Blue-winged (475 vs. 185), though eight Brewster's Warblers were also found. Single singing Golden-winged Warblers in June in Wyoming and Montana were extraordinary, whatever their status.

Again under the stewardship of the Cornell University Laboratory of Ornithology, the Cerulean Warbler Atlas Project published results based on four years of field work from 1997 to 2000. This project identified several hundred important Cerulean Warbler breeding sites in all states within the species's range and estimated population sizes at those sites. Using physiographic regions defined by Partners in Flight, the core of the breeding range was found to be in the Ohio Hills, which consists of the Allegheny Mountains in West Virginia and the Allegheny Plateau in Ohio, and the Northern Cumberland Plateau, which covers the eastern third of Kentucky, southwestern West Virginia, a small area in western Virginia, and a swath across Tennessee barely extending into Alabama and Georgia. Significant populations were also found in two adjacent regions. The Allegheny Plateau of west-central Pennsylvania, the southern tier of New York to the base of the Adirondack Mountains, and a part of northeastern Ohio and the Interior Low Plateau extending from northern Alabama across central Tennessee and Kentucky into southern Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio.

The atlas also refined our understanding of Cerulean Warbler habitat

requirements. The species is known to inhabit riparian bottomland forests as well as a variety of upland forests. One feature identified as being common to these different types of habitat is an irregular canopy structure providing some sort of "internal edge" providing a view across the canopy of an individual bird's territory. In drier sites, such as ridges, this edge is often provided by emergent oaks; in areas of mature secondary growth, emergent Tulip Poplars provide the feature; and in riparian situations, it is provided by American Plane Trees, or Sycamores (Rosenberg et al 2000). I encourage anyone interested in Cerulean Warblers to take a look at the report at <<http://www.birds.cornell.edu/cewap/>>. In addition to being a landmark for the study and conservation of Cerulean Warblers in the United States, it is a wonderful example of what can come of the collaboration between well-funded scientists and birders.

Regional editors Sekula, Shackelford, and Lockwood report a fascinating situation with another rare warbler in the United States, the Colima Warbler. In the area of Mount Livermore in the Davis Mountains Preserve, five or so singing male *Vermivora* sounded like Colima Warblers, while others appeared to sing songs intermediate between Colima and Virginia's Warblers. This year's birds were thought to be Colimas when studied visually and by ear in June, but when two were captured on 12 July, measurements indicated that both were Virginia's Warblers. Could hybridization have played a role in this area, and have any true Colima Warblers been confirmed in these mountains?

Big counts and concentrated monitoring efforts

Surveys conducted by the Canadian Wildlife Service in the St. James Bay region of Québec produced some jaw-dropping results: 198 Yellow Rails, 181 Le Conte's Sparrows, and 422 Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow make the mind reel, as does Donata Roome's location of some 60 Swainson's Warbler nests in southeastern Louisiana as part of her Ph.D. research (only the count of resultant mosquito bites could be more impressive). The tally of about 720 Hudsonian Godwits at Beaverhill Lake in Alberta 23-24 July led Regional editors Rudolf Koes and Peter Taylor to wonder: "Do these large numbers indicate massive nesting failure farther north, or drought-displacement from known gathering areas in central Saskatchewan?"

Several sets of numbers combined from the Hudson-Delaware and New England regions paint an encouraging picture for the recovery of endangered species. A count of 433 Bald Eagle pairs came in from Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey; though a cold, wet spring apparently reduced nesting success, the number of East Coast pairs increases steadily. Perhaps a symbol of this great bird's comeback is its coaxed return to New York City: the attempt to hack four Wisconsin-origin eaglets at Inwood Park on the north end of Manhattan resulted in one young airborne by the end of July. Peregrine Falcons' numbers were also encouraging, with a total of at least 129 nests in New England, New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. Particularly encouraging were the reports of falcons returning to a historic cliff-nesting site in Massachusetts, as well as about 17 pairs on natural sites in New York; historical eyries are still uninhabited in neighboring Pennsylvania. To the west, the only known wild pair of Aplomado Falcons in the United States brought off three young by the period's end—the first successful nesting by wild Aplomados in the country in half a century. Regional editor Sandy Williams notes that "this historic natural recolonization continue[s] to be threatened by proposed releases of hundreds of captive Aplomados of tropical lowland origin into the high desert grasslands of western Texas and southern New Mexico." This is much food for thought.

A combined 975 pairs of Piping Plovers from Massachusetts, Long Island, New Jersey, and Delaware offers some hope, though beach-nesting

plovers (including Wilson's) still face an uphill battle given the human pressure on barrier beaches, which is relentless and reckless in many parts of Virginia and the Southeast, where monitoring of productivity and policing of disturbances are ineffective in most places and nearly nonexistent in many others.

West Nile Virus

Alarming accounts of dead and dying raptors and owls filling wildlife rehabilitation centers in the Midwest caught the media's attention this summer. A precise picture of the impact of West Nile Virus on the avifauna of North America is still quite difficult to countenance. The few numbers available are mainly from state and county health departments or wildlife rehabilitation centers. Neither of these sources has attempted to monitor bird mortality systematically, so the actual numbers are potentially much greater than what has been reported. Too, there are no coordinated, long-term data sets of avian mortality before the arrival of the virus, and so conclusions made in the absence of a baseline are apt to be speculative. The Center for Disease Control has identified over 100 species in North America (including non-native species) that have tested positive for the virus, but it is not clear in many cases that the actual *cause of death* was West Nile Virus. The American Bird Conservancy estimates that thousands of birds have been killed by the virus, but that figure comes from tested birds; so no one knows the real extent of the impact. It's important to add that American Crows in test situations have shown 100% mortality rates when exposed to the virus, and the family Corvidae seems particularly susceptible to the virus. The range of species listed at <<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/birdspecies.htm>> shows no taxonomic patterns. From the numbers of hawks and owls coming in to rehabilitation centers in Ohio, Illinois, Michigan, Indiana, and Nebraska, one could infer that these groups may also be especially susceptible to the virus, though an ailing Red-tailed Hawk would be much more conspicuous than would a sick Song Sparrow or Carolina Wren, for instance.

The devastating impact of mosquito-borne disease in birds is well studied in the Hawaiian Islands, so dire scenarios of population crashes in North America are not without some basis in reality. One frightening possibility would be for various migrants to carry the virus to Caribbean islands, where many endemic species are already struggling to maintain healthy populations (see the West Indies regional report). On the other hand, native birds have evolved in the presence of potentially devastating diseases, and epidemics occur somewhat routinely. This past season, an outbreak of avian cholera in the St. Lawrence estuary of Québec killed some 6000 Common Eiders, for instance. Without a robust and adaptable immune system, no bird species would be able to survive the rigors of natural selection. West Nile is closely related to the bird-borne St. Louis Encephalitis virus, so perhaps the physiological framework for immunity already exists. While there is reason for genuine concern regarding threatened and endangered taxa—a Gulf Coast Sandhill Crane (*Grus canadensis pulla*) was among the birds apparently killed by the virus—there is also reasonable hope that birds will adapt quickly to the new pathogen. At this point, the situation needs close monitoring, so that if widespread declines occur, they will be detected in time for some action to be taken. Winter crow roosts may provide a relatively easy focus for monitoring efforts.

Under the radar: skuas

This past September, a bomb was dropped on the seabirding world. Dick Newell announced on the listserv Frontiers of Field Identification that preliminary results of DNA analysis of samples from two skuas captured in the eastern North Atlantic—one at St. Agnes in the Isles of Scilly in October 2001, the other on Aberavon Beach in Glamorgan, South Wales in February 2002—indicated that they belonged to one of the cryptic

southern hemisphere taxa of Subantarctic Skua *Catharacta antarctica*, either *hamiltoni* or *antarctica* (some authorities, e. g., Shirihai [2002] still combine the larger *lonnbergi* with this group under the name “Brown Skua”). The measurements of the Glamorgan bird suggest “Falkland Skua,” the nominate form; no measurements were taken of the Scilly skua. No further details were announced, though a short paper has been sent to *Ibis* for consideration (see <<http://www.surfbirds.com/Features/skuare-result.html>>). (N. B.: The A. O. U. and A. B. A. now place skuas in genus *Stercorarius* with jaegers.)

DNA is often thought to be “bulletproof” when it comes to determining identification, but many important questions concerning exactly what types of tests were performed, what exactly was sequenced, and what sorts of reference materials were used for comparisons remain to be addressed. What’s more, the taxonomy and systematics of southern hemisphere skuas are very much unsettled and complicated by interbreeding between some populations. So while the English skua findings cannot be regarded as unequivocal or clear, the forthcoming paper should be eagerly anticipated by East Coast (and even West Coast) pelagic birders.

Subantarctic Skua is one of the names associated with *antarctica* and *hamiltoni*; others are Antarctic Skua and Southern Skua, whereas “Falkland Skua” is reserved for the nominate taxon and “Tristan Skua” for *hamiltoni*. One of this group might well have already occurred off the coast of New Jersey (Brady 1988), and world authorities on the group have reason to believe that other photographs taken off North Carolina (and circulated via the Internet) refer neither to Great nor to South Polar Skua but probably instead to one of these two taxa (cf. <<http://www.patteson.com/skuas/skuas.htm>>). Likewise, Brown Skua—the name almost always associated with *lonnbergi*—has probably been detected off New York (ph. *American Birds* 32: 1108) and off North Carolina several times (Brinkley 1994; see also ph. <http://www.magikcircle.com/birds/image.asp?title_id=457>), but criteria for at-sea identification of this group are uncertain, and no records committee has accepted any of these records as referring unambiguously to any taxon, though the North Carolina committee acknowledges that more than two *Catharacta* taxa have almost certainly been documented in state waters.

The appearance of confirmed Subantarctic Skuas in the North Atlantic is particularly troubling, as it potentially throws into question many reports of both young dark-morph South Polar Skuas and many Great Skuas, which show an unsettling resemblance to Subantarctic Skuas in some plumages. If states’ records committees take a conservative view of *Catharacta* identification and distribution, then it would seem a necessary measure to re-review all photographic documentation of all *Catharacta* available. Given the uncertainties surrounding identification of members of this group, many such records would then undoubtedly have to be relegated to “unidentified *Catharacta* species,” as most records prior to the late 1970s already have been, that is, before the split of South Polar Skua and the realization that the species often summers off North American shores. Nevertheless, birders on both coasts can continue to contribute to the pioneering work of figuring out the puzzle of skua identification and distribution by taking excellent field notes and by taking photographs and video of every individual possible.

On the wild side?

Ruddy Shelducks may be as conspicuous as Subantarctic Skuas are cryptic. A Ruddy Shelduck at Bombay Hook, Delaware on 8 June and a flock of seven at Cape May, New Jersey at the end of July 2002 were largely dismissed as escaped former captives. But the same was once said of Garganey, now often accepted as a legitimate vagrant from the Palearctic by states’ records committees. The vagrancy of the Ruddy Shelduck in the western Palearctic is conclusively tied to the drying of their preferred

habitat, temporary ponds and flooded fields, in core range, and their appearances in western Europe are typically in summer. Might drought as far away as southern Europe drive birds to our shores? The nicely documented record from Nunavut in summer 2001 (Allard et al. 2001) should encourage us to take a closer look.

In an essay entitled “The Implications of Vagrancy,” Keith Vinicombe and David M. Cottridge write of this shelduck in northwestern Europe: “Regular northerly movements of Ruddy Shelducks can also be categorized with the foregoing [immigrations from the south], although the fact that larger movements may be triggered by desiccation makes this species at least partly irruptive. As these influxes occur principally in July and August, a time that is traditionally poor for vagrancy, many ornithologists have been [...] unwilling to accept that they actually involve wild birds, and many have been traditionally dismissed as escapes. The Ruddy Shelduck and the Rose-coloured Starling have long been stigmatized in this way” (Vinicombe and Cottridge 1997). (One could add: their colorful plumage feeds incredulity about their presence as well.) A thorough review of vagrancy patterns in the British Isles suggests strongly that second-year male Ruddy Shelducks have the greatest propensity to wander (Harrop 2002). Has anyone noticed that the Atlantic coastal appearances of this species in past decades have largely been in summer and very early autumn—and that they sometimes coincide with “flight years”? It is curious how birders, ornithologists, and the media often arbitrarily segregate the wheat(ear) from the chaff(inch): Cuban Grassquits are summarily dismissed as escapees, while Yellow-faced Grassquits are celebrated as legitimate vagrants; Eurasian Wigeon are universally accepted as wild, while White-cheeked Pintails have fallen from favor everywhere; Belcher’s Gull arrives under its own steam, but White-chinned Petrel must have been brought aboard a ship. And was the penguin more likely to hitch a ride than the skuas, in a beautiful pea-green boat?

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In Memoriam

Robert L. Sutton

July 9, 1943—July 22, 2002

On 22 July 2002, birder, environmentalist, and friend Robert L. Sutton of Manchester Parish, Jamaica, was killed by stabbing during a robbery of his home, Marshall's Pen—a place intimately known to thousands of birders and ornithologists across the planet. His wife, Ann Haynes Sutton, likewise a prominent ornithologist and conservationist, was also stabbed, robbed, and abducted but survived the attack.

We do not often read or write of events such as this in *North American Birds*, and it saddens us deeply to include them here. Robert Sutton was not only synonymous with Jamaican ornithology to so many: he was universally known as a kind and gentle man, a marvelous host, and a patient counselor and listener. His knowledge of Caribbean birdlife was shared generously with countless people—students, researchers, development specialists, photographers, journalists, and government officials. He volunteered regularly to teach the art and skill of birding to local people and to take members of the Natural History Society of Jamaica and the Gosse Bird Club into the field. And he was the local guide for virtually every organized birding tour or group that visited the island. His patience and wit were apparent to all who spent time with him.

To so many of us who spent time at Marshall's Pen, Robert Sutton seemed a man of a gentler era. His roots on Jamaica extended back to 1655, and he was a direct descendant of Richard James, the first baby born in Jamaica under English rule. His father, who passed away in 1998 at the age of 97, often gave tours of the family estate and the history of the family, which includes the Robert Sutton who founded the London Stock Exchange.

Robert was born on July 9, 1943 in Mandeville, where he was schooled and eventually attended DeCarteret College, but he also learned much about cattle ranching at an early age, on the family property in Manchester. He managed cattle herds on properties in the parishes of St. Elizabeth and Westmoreland until 1979, when he took over his father's business. His accomplishments as a cattle breeder were substantial (particularly with Jamaican Redpolls), with some of his stock taking prizes. Robert was rooted to the land and the local people. His family donated land for the nearby Mike Town Community Centre and the Mike Town Missionary Church, and he was a regular at Community Council meetings. He was sponsor of the Mike Town Basic School, a past president of the Manchester Horticultural Society, and treasurer of the Jamaica Junior Naturalists.

A self-taught naturalist, Robert was a tireless promoter of the wild beauty of his native island. He counseled many hundreds of visiting naturalists and researchers throughout his adult life. In 1997, he was a consultant to the BBC Natural History Film Unit on David Attenborough's *Life of Birds*, as well as for the 1995 production *Spirits of the Jaguar*. Environmental impact statements were another strong suit, from the JAVAMEX Project for CIDA in 1977, to the Royal Palm Reserve Project for the Petroleum Corporation of Jamaica in 1987, to the problem of bird strikes, for the Airports Authority of Jamaica a decade ago. Through all of this, Ann was a constant advisor, companion, and partner, who assisted Robert with his projects while spearheading many of her

own conservation initiatives and maintaining Marshall's Pen as a refuge for both birds and birders. At the time of his death, Robert was helping Ann in studying birds of the Portland Bight Protected Area and trying to identify ways to promote conservation in the area through sustainable eco-tourism. A master bander through the U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Robert and Ann banded thousands of birds on Jamaica over three decades, and Robert gathered data on weather as well, faithfully forwarding his findings to the Jamaican Meteorological Service.

Birders will long know the name Robert Sutton through his publications. Together with his cousin, Audrey Downer, Robert published *Birds of Jamaica: a Photographic Field Guide* (Cambridge University Press, 1990); with Georges Reynard, he published *Bird Songs in Jamaica* (Cornell University Press, 2000). Most sadly, Robert's ideas for an exhaustive monograph on the island's avifauna were not carried out before he was taken from us. As his obituary from the *Gleaner* in Jamaica read: "He was just beginning to set down for the rest of us the wealth of knowledge he had gained over his lifetime and was planning a new book and a new series of sound recordings. His untimely death is a great loss to the environmental community, and to the environment itself. In his own quiet (and unsung) way, this Jamaican man has made a serious and lasting contribution to our understanding of Jamaica's natural history."

Robert, you are missed beyond measure.

—Edward S. Brinkley

—Richard C. Hoyer

The Society for the Conservation and Study of Caribbean Birds, with the assistance of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, has established a Memorial Fund to honor Robert Sutton's life and work. The funds will support an aspect of Jamaican bird conservation especially important to Robert (a project to be announced in the Society's journal *El Pitirre*). To contribute to the fund, please send a check made out to National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (and with "Robert Sutton Memorial Fund" in the check's memo space, *very important*) to:

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Suite 900
1120 Connecticut Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20036

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation will then send a thank-you letter with a tax-deductible donation credit.

Atlantic Provinces



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No news often means good news for breeding birds. There were no dramatic cold wet spells to inhibit survival of insectivore nestlings. There were no high tides to wipe out beach nesting species. There was ample rain. There were no stifling heat waves. It was a bog-standard breeding season in the Region. Rarities were on the light side, with Eared Grebe making a first appearance in New Brunswick. St. Pierre et Miquelon had their second Sandwich Tern.

Abbreviations: G.M.I. (Grand Manan Island, New Brunswick).

LOONS THROUGH CRANES

The southernmost nesting Red-throated Loons in North America were holding their own at Miquelon, SPM with two known nests and two others suspected (RE). A Pied-billed Grebe was sitting on a floating nest at Loch Lomond, NF 16 Jun where the species was first established as a breeding species in the province only recently (LB). New Brunswick's first Eared Grebe was a breeding-plumaged bird at Wilson Pt. Rd, Miscou I. on the unexpected date of 1 Jun (RD, FB). Unseasonable grebes in New Brunswick were a Horned Grebe in late Jun at Long Pond Bay, G.M.I.

(*fide* BD) and a Red-necked Grebe at Napadogan L. 23 Jun (DG). Manx Shearwater remains fairly common and is probably increasing in the summer in se. Newfoundland and St. Pierre et Miquelon, with several counts of 50-100+ individuals. The only known breeding colony is still the one near Lawn, Burin Pen., NF. A feeding frenzy of 20,000 Northern Gannets off Miscou I., NB on 3 Jun must have been a spectacular sight (RS et al.). The seven sightings of **American White Pelican** at widely spaced localities in New Brunswick between 13 Jun and 26 Jul were possibly all of the same bird (*fide* DC).

The only report of the very locally breeding Least Bittern was one heard at Amherst Point Bird Sanctuary 11 Jun (FL). It was an average year for s. herons in the Region. Great Egret was the most numerous, with 3 in New Brunswick and 2 in Nova Scotia. The only reports of the formerly more regularly straying Snowy Egret were 2 at Sambro Head, NS 12-25 Jul (*fide* IM). Four Cattle Egrets at Bay Bulls, NF 22-24 June was an unusual date for a sighting of multiple birds in the Region (*fide* PL). A Green Heron was well out of range at St. Shotts, NF 7 Jul (KK, JWe). An exhausted Yellow-crowned Night-Heron appeared offshore at Sable I., NS 14 Jul (ZL).

Turkey Vultures raised 2 young at the only known nesting locality in the Region, Quispamisis, NB (JWi). A Turkey Vulture at Brier I., NS on 21 Jun was considered unusual for early summer, yet the area receives the

largest concentrations of the species in the Region in autumn and early winter (EM).

A Brant at Wabush, NF on 5 Jun was an unusual sighting for w. Labrador (CD). Five Wood Ducks in the Gambo-Glovertown, NF area in early Jun was unexpected in a province where the species is not yet known to breed (GS). A male Eurasian Wigeon was paired with a female American Wigeon in a pond near Stephenville Crossing, NF on 9 Jun (PL). There were 2 male Eurasian Wigeon in the same pond in early Jul (ST). The first suggestion that Tufted Ducks might eventually remain behind to breed in the Region was a pair 16-19 Jun at pond near St. John's NF (KK). A male Redhead spent the first two weeks of Jun at Fig L. in s.-cen. Labrador, a first Labrador record (JS, IG). The only report of Ruddy Duck was a male on a sewage lagoon (typical) at St. Léonard, NB (*fide* DC). For the 3rd summer in a row, a Rough-legged Hawk summered on the Tantramar marsh, NB (KP). Another unseasonable individual was at Donkin, C.B.I., NS on 13 Jul (*fide* IM). A Yellow Rail was heard calling in late evening 22 Jun at Whale Cove Marsh, G.M.I., NB, where there are very few records at any time of year (*fide* BD). Sora is regularly reported in small numbers across s.-cen. Labrador, but the first actual breeding record discovered was an ad. with a chick 26 Jul at Labrador City (CD). Sandhill Cranes continue to be present at widely scattered locations throughout the Region during the summer months. In New Brunswick, there was a pair at Havenlock for some time (*fide* DC), and an individual was near Bouctouche 10 Jul (ML). The island of Newfoundland had one at Upper Ferry 21 Jun (AG) and a banded individual at Joe Batts Arm 8-10 Jul (*fide* PL).

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH ALCIDS

The stalwart pair of **American Oystercatchers** raised 3 young at Cape Sable I., NS, as is now expected. There was one unmated ad. also present through the season (MN et al.). For the 2nd summer in a row, an ad. summered on the small islands off se. Grand Manan I., NB (BD et al.). The island of Newfoundland recorded its 5th American Avocet, one at Piccadilly 5-7 Jun (BW et al.). Six Willets in Newfoundland (*fide* PL) and 2 in Miquelon, SPM (*fide* RE) were ne. of the breeding range. Southbound Whimbrel arrived right on cue, with the first individual 28 Jun at Conrad's Beach, NS (*fide* SF) and the first flock being 35 on 3 Jul at Isthmus, SPM (LJ). A slightly early Hudsonian Godwit was at Morien Bar, C.B.I., NS 28 Jun (SM). A cooperative Marbled Godwit frequented Maisonette Dune, NB 14

Jul to Aug (NB et al.). A dark Ruff was as Eel River Bar, NB 14 Jul (ML). An impressive 5000+ Short-billed Dowitchers 21 Jul at Cape Sable I., NS was called an "average" number for this locality (MN et al.). The only Wilson's Phalaropes reports were 3 (2 in early Jun, one in late Jul) in New Brunswick (*vide* DC). Four hundred Red Phalaropes on 6 Jun at Miquelon, SPM during stormy weather was an unusual spring concentration (RE). In late July "thousands" of both Red-necked and Red Phalaropes were seen on whale watching trips off Brier I., NS (*vide* SF).

There were just 2 reported skuas: one unidentified to species off Brier I., NS in late Jul (*vide* BMy) and a Great Skua at sea southwest of St. Pierre, SPM 26 Jul (LJ). The only Little Gull was at Eel River Bar, NB 8-14 Jul (m. ob.). There were 3 Laughing Gulls during the 3rd week of Jun on Miquelon, SPM (RE) and singles in Newfoundland at Cape Spear 29 Jun (CB) and Fortune 11 Jul (Gary Felter, Jack Hugus). The fluctuating colony of Black-headed Gulls at Stephenville Crossing, NF reached a new high of 16 nests with eggs or chicks (Greg Robertson). A report of a California Gull at Long Pond, G.M.I., NB in Jun was unfortunately not accompanied by details. A **Sandwich Tern** was photographed at St. Pierre, SPM on 25 Jul was the 2nd for the French islands (PA). Ten years of careful monitoring and protection of Roseate Terns at The Brothers, NS has resulted in a record 90 nests producing 62 chicks (Ted d'Eon). The impressive Common Tern colony at Kouchibouguac N. P. contained 6454 nests 14 Jun (Mike LeBlanc). Two **Least Terns** were unexpected early summer visitors at Little Sheep I., G.M.I., NB 21 Jun (BD). A rare summer Dovekie was at Miquelon, SPM 5 Jun (BL).

DOVES THROUGH WAXWINGS

Mourning Doves are very slowly beginning to breed in e. portions of the Region. The first breeding record for St. Pierre et Miquelon was confirmed with an ad. and 2 juvs. at St. Pierre 12 Jul (DG). There were two broods of Mourning Doves at St. Lawrence, Burin Pen., NF (NW, GW). Both Nova Scotia and New Brunswick reported above-average numbers of Black-billed Cuckoos. One strayed as far e. as Miquelon, SPM 1 Jul (DD). Spring overshooting or scouting Eastern Wood-Pewees were at Upper Ferry, NF 9 Jun (PL, JP), Langlade, SPM 15 Jun (PA) and St. Pierre, SPM 22 Jun (PA). Least Flycatcher is increasing as a summer resident in sw. Newfoundland, where 11 territorial males were recorded in Jun (PL). Because Scissor-tailed Flycatchers are a highly attractive, the species is noticed more often off the

beaten track of birders than perhaps any other regular long-distance vagrant in the Region. This season's two sightings were both from tourist destinations, with one at the Grand Manan Island ferry dock at Blacks Harbour, NB 26 Jun (BS) and one near Peggy's Cove, NS 8 Jun (Kay Richardson). Purple Martins venturing ne. of the breeding range were one at Loch Lomond, NF 3 Jun (KK) and one at St. Pierre, SPM 12 Jun (RE).

A pair of Brown Creepers near Goose Bay, Labrador in Jul was n. of the known breeding range (IS). The first Regional breeding record of Carolina Wren occurred on Grand Manan I., NB with one pair producing two broods. With the increasing frequency of summer Carolina Wrens in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, breeding was anticipated. Nova Scotia came close to getting breeding House Wrens at Wolfville when a pair built a nest that was abandoned two weeks later (*vide* JT). Summer research in the lower Churchill River valley w. of Goose Bay, Labrador revealed that both Winter Wren and Golden-crowned Kinglet were more numerous than previously known (IS). Eastern Bluebirds were reported in good numbers in New Brunswick (DC). A Wood Thrush 3 Jun at Cheeseman P. P. in the sw. corner of the island of Newfoundland was one of only a handful of provincial records (KK). Northern Mockingbirds annually push the limits of pioneering by going to Labrador. This season there was one during Jun at Goose Bay (Betty Learning). The only known Brown Thrasher nesting of the season was at last year's site at The Hawk, Cape Sable, NS where three young were fledged from one nest (MN).

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

Five Nashville Warblers and 7 Northern Parulas in w. Newfoundland were typical numbers during the breeding season for these scarce breeders (PL et al.). A male Prothonotary Warbler 27 Jul in a backyard at St. Lawrence, Burin Pen., NF was an early but not unprecedented date in the Region for this flashy southern vagrant (GW, NW). An imm. male Summer Tanager lingered until 10 Jun at a Cape Sable, NS feeder (MN). Extralimital Scarlet Tanagers were at St. Pierre, SPM 2-7 Jun (LJ et al.) and Cupids, NF 2 Jun (PL). An Eastern Towhee singing in a forest clearcut on the Wolfville, NS ridge from late Jun to late Jul failed to attract a mate (JT). Chipping Sparrows were again recorded during the breeding season in the lower valley of the Churchill R., adding to the suspicion that the species is a regular breeder in small numbers in s.-cen. Labrador (IS). Field Sparrows were singing at two locations in New Brunswick,

with one 28 Jun at McCowans Corner (PP, DG) and another 28 Jul at Oromocto (*vide* DC). A well-seen Lark Sparrow in the sw. corner of Newfoundland at Searston on 20 Jun was a most unseasonable occurrence of this regular w. vagrant, which is usually found Aug to Oct in the Region (DP). First-year Indigo Buntings frequently sing n. of the species's breeding range, as was exemplified by individuals at Fredericton, NB 23 Jun (*vide* DC), Miquelon, SPM 18 Jun (*vide* RE) and St. John's, NF 5-11 Jul (MP et al.).

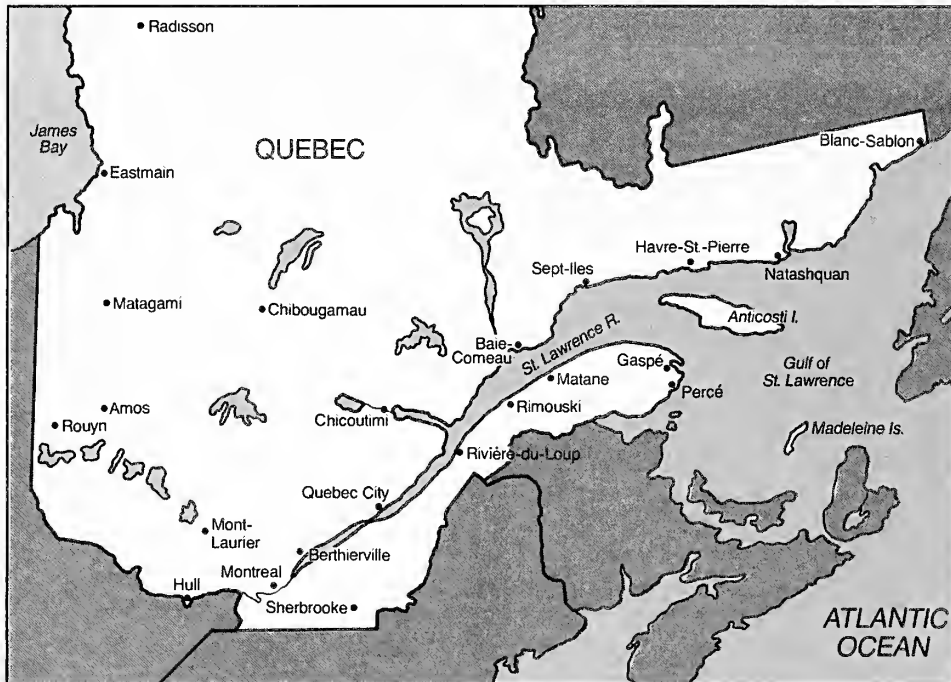
A small colony of breeding Common Grackles at St. Lawrence, Burin Pen., NF was an eastward extension of the breeding range within the province (G. & N. Wilson). Baltimore Oriole is prominent among the group of gaudy s. species with a strong spring presence that does not reflect its limited breeding population in the Region. A perfect example of this comes from the well-known vagrant trap, Brier I., NS, where 3 males and a female 1 Jun were down to one male on 2 Jun and none thereafter (*vide* DM).

Finches, especially White-winged Crossbills, often exhibit something like a sixth sense when it comes to knowing what part of the country has a good cone crop. Both Nova Scotia and Newfoundland reported a fairly good cone crop, but numbers of White-winged Crossbills were strangely low, and there no reports of singing birds. Pine Siskins were reasonably well reported from Nova Scotia and Newfoundland.

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Summer 2002 was generally warm and dry, with the exception of the first half of June that turned out cool and wet in the South. Breeding success was presumed to be good, although negative impacts were locally expected in some adverse circumstances. For instance, major fires destroyed nearly 250,000 hectares of boreal forests north of Lake Saint-Jean and east of James Bay in early July. Although the impact on nesting birds cannot be assessed now, it remains possible that at least a certain proportion of the birds had

enough time to replace their lost broods.

An avian cholera outbreak on some islands of the St. Lawrence Estuary in June was responsible for the death of 6000 Common Eiders, mostly incubating females. According to authorities, it was the biggest outbreak of disease on Québec wildlife in 30 years, but overall the eider duck population was not at risk. The species is abundant in the estuary and the Gulf of St. Lawrence and has rebounded from large outbreaks of disease in the past.

On a more encouraging note, surveys conducted by the Canadian Wildlife Service in the southern James Bay region produced remarkable finds. Not only this area is already well known as a major stopover for migrating shorebirds and waterfowl, but it also appears to be an important and highly productive breeding ground for many species of special concern. Various reports from the Nunavik region of Québec by biologists of the Canadian Wildlife Service and by others also contributed new insights into the Regional distribution of some species. These efforts led to the discovery of two new breeding species for the Region: the Pectoral Sandpiper and the Dunlin. A third species, the Orchard Oriole, was also found nesting in the southern part of the Region for the first time.

Abbreviation: C.W.S. (Canadian Wildlife Service).

LOONS THROUGH OWLS

A Pacific Loon in nearly complete breeding plumage was spotted from the Rivière-du-Loup/Saint-Siméon ferry 11 Jun, bringing the total of summer records to at least 8 in the St. Lawrence Estuary (CA, CG). Wilson's Storm Petrels were abundant throughout Jul, as shown by counts of around 100 individuals made off Cap d'Espoir and Percé, Gaspésie, on several occasions (D. Cahill, R. Bourget et al.) and 50 between Bergeronnes and Trois-Pistoles, in the St. Lawrence Estuary, 24 Jul (R. Barbeau). To everyone's surprise, American White Pelicans were seen almost daily in the Region. Two birds first appeared at Léry 3 Jun (A. Leduc). Two birds (the same?) moved to the Lachine Rapids 8 Jun, where they remained all summer (PB, m. ob.). Two were seen in flight over Montréal 13 Jun (AM), and 2 were reported at Notre-Dame-du-Nord, *Témiscamingue* 18 Jun (J. Larouche, *vide* M. Lessard). Singles were spotted at Neuville 8 Jul (P. Savard et al.), Yamachiche 9 Jul (F. Rousseau, J. Gélinas), Saint-Antoine-de-Tilly 13 Jul (A. Guimond, K. Bergeron), and Deschambault 14 Jul (R. & F. Dion). A total of 4 was reported at Sainte-Catherine in the Lachine Rapids 15 Jul (F. Gauthier), and one was seen again in flight over Montréal 24 Jul (*vide* ND). Single Snowy Egrets visited Sept-Îles 4 Jun (JFL), Drummondville 25 Jun (J. Bourdeau), and Saint-Mathias 29-30 Jul (AM, m. ob.). An imm. Little Blue Heron graced Lachenaie 24-28 Jul (JP. Hameury, m. ob.), while an ad. Tricolored Heron at Percé 20 Jul was a nice find (L. Simard et al.).

Unusual in summer, a Ross's Goose appeared at Baie-du-Febvre 17 Jul+ (M. Moscini, C. Nadeau). An out-of-range Tundra Swan remained at Sept-Îles for most of the summer (JFL, m. ob.). The discovery of 3 Northern Shovelers at Puvirnituq, *Nunavik* 6-13 Jul, about 1000 km n. of their range, was difficult to explain (JaL), but even more puzzling was the finding of a female with 7 ducklings at L. Puvirnituq 5 Aug (JoL, RC). More expected, a Green-winged Teal and its brood were found near Polemond R., between Puvirnituq and Inukjuak 6 Aug, contributing a further extension to the breeding range (JoL, RC). Quite unexpected so far n. was the occurrence of 5 Redheads (3 males and 2 females) at Brisay 5 Jun (RC). Female Ruddy Ducks accompanying ducklings were found e. of their known range, at Saint-Pamphile 15-17 Jul (JG. Chouinard et al.) and at Neuville 26 Jul (E. Bernard, E. Martel). The severe drought in the Canadian Prairies was suggested as a possible explanation for the dispersal



This Scissor-tailed Flycatcher appeared at Cap Tourmente 3-4 June 2002, one of two present in the province this season. Photograph by Michele Lafleur.

of some of the above-mentioned ducks so far away from their regular breeding range.

Two imm. Golden Eagles at Sainte-Catherine-de-Hatley 24 Jun were notable so far s. in summer (C. Côté, M. Laramée). A C.W.S. survey conducted in the s. James Bay region produced a remarkable 198 Yellow Rails 21-26 Jul, most of them in Boatswain Bay and Cabbage Willow Bay (MR, FS, BJ, LR). A Virginia Rail was heard at night 24 Jul in Boatswain Bay, well n. of its breeding range (MR, FS), while one at Port-Menier 22 Jul apparently furnished a first record for Anticosti I. (E. Presseau, G. Lachaine). A Common Moorhen at Barachois 2 Jun was apparently the first reported since 1914 in the Gaspésie region (O. Lévesque et al., *vide* PP). An American Coot at Sept-Îles 13 Jun represented one of very few for the North Shore (B. Poulin). While Sandhill Cranes were still consolidating their breeding range in several localities of nw. Québec, an ad. accompanied by a half-grown young near L. Gamain in the w. part of La Vérendrye Wildlife Reserve 7 Jul

probably provided the southernmost breeding record in the Region (F. Lamy, R. Lavigne, *vide* DT, M. Renaud).

A pair of American Golden-Plover displaying and copulating near Polemond R. in early Jun provided the first sign of breeding in the Region (B. Andres et al.). A total of 7 Killdeer acting as they were nesting was seen at Blanc-Sablon 11 Jul (S & R. West). The only known breeding record at this n. locality occurred in 1980. A nest of Lesser Yellowlegs containing 2 eggs at Brisay 2 Jul represented one of very few found in the Region (RC, JFS). Willets nested again in the Magdalen Is., where 4 ads. and at least one young were detected near Grosse-Île 16 Jul (DGG). A few Marbled Godwits showing agitated behavior were discovered in the s. James Bay region in late Jul, but an unequivocal breeding record is still awaited in the Region (MR, FS, BJ, LR). An ad. **Pectoral Sandpiper** with a downy young at Polemond R. 5 Aug provided the first breeding record for the Region (RC). Although the **Dunlin** has also been nesting near Polemond R. apparently

since 1997, it was not until this year that the good news reached the birding community. This summer, a nest was discovered 27 Jun followed by two others on 8 Jul (J. Hughes, JoL). A Buff-breasted Sandpiper at Rimouski 15 Jul was record-early for a southbound migrant (G. Bouchard), while a Ruff in the same locality 4 Jun was most probably a late northbound migrant (R. Saint-Laurent). Two Wilson's Snipe at Puvirnitug 6-13 Jul were more than 500 km n. of their known range (JaL).

Up to 20 Little Gulls in Rupert Bay in early summer represented an impressive number (PL, P. Brousseau), while a flock of 12, including a juv., in early Aug furnished strong evidence of local breeding (YA, A. Morrier, J. Ibarzabal). Five Bonaparte's Gulls at Brisay 2 Jul were somewhat e. of their range (JFS). An ad. Sabine's Gull in alternate plumage at Les Escoumins 15 Jun was noteworthy (CA, CG). Two Snowy Owls summering at Grosse-Île were not totally unexpected (DGG, Claude Roy, m.ob.), but one at Saint-Samuel-de-Horton all summer was very unusual so far s. (C. Provencher, C. Ducharme). The nest of a Great Gray Owl built on a cliff along La Grande R. in Jun provided a very significant range extension for the species (*vide* PL). Very unusual for the Lower St. Lawrence in summer were 2 Great Grays at Sainte-Luce 14-15 Jun, with one remaining all season (*vide* RF) and one at Isle-Verte 23 Jun (S. Duchemin).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH ORIOLES

A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher put on a nice show for the photographers present at Cap Tourmente 3-4 Jun (P. Caron, m. ob.), and another one was well described at Saint-Timothée 24 Jul (S. Yelle). A nest of Warbling Vireo at Saint-Gédéon 25 Jun represented a first for the Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean region (C. Cormier, GS). For the 2nd consecutive year, a pair of Carolina Wren nested at Île des Sœurs, *Montréal*, where 5 individuals were present 28 Jul (PB). A pair showing agitated behavior was also reported in the Mount-Royal Cemetery 29 Jul (E. Samson); a pair at Cap-Rouge near Québec City all summer raised the possibility of local nesting (*vide* YA). A House Wren at Sept-Îles 18 Jul was out of range (JFL). Two singing Sedge Wrens at Saint-Eugène-de-Guigues, *Témiscamingue* 8-22 Jul most probably nested there, as suggested by the sighting of an individual carrying food (JF). A Northern Wheatear stopped at Pointe-au-Boisvert, on the North Shore, 2 Jun (G. Lemelin et al.). An adventurous American Robin reached Puvirnitug 6-13 Jul (JaL), while a Gray Catbird at Sakami (LG3 dam) 18 Jun was almost 1000 km n. of its range (SD). A

Northern Mockingbird about 150 km n. of Lebel-sur-Quévillon in early Jun was unexpected so far north (M. Poulin). Bohemian Waxwings still made the news this summer; a flock of 12 was found at Brisay 3 Jun, but the ultimate proof of breeding in the Region is still awaited (RC, JFS).

Extralimital warblers included a male Blue-winged Warbler that stopped at Bromont 16 Jun (BH), a singing male Prairie Warbler also at Bromont 8-13 Jun (JM. Béliveau, m. ob.), a Worm-eating Warbler on Mount Mégantic 5 Jun (K. Clark), and a Yellow-breasted Chat at Wakefield 24 Jul (*vide* DT). Two Vesper Sparrows at Carleton 4 Jun were considered rare for the Gaspésie region (R. Caissy). Le Conte's Sparrows were doing extremely well in the Témiscamingue region, as shown by counts of 16 at Fugèreville 23 Jul, 6 at Saint-Eugène-de-Guigues 22 Jul, and 2 at Notre-Dame-du-Nord 29 Jun (JF), but a count of 181 individuals in the s. James Bay region 21-26 Jul was outstanding (MR, FS, BJ, LR). Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows were also surprisingly abundant in the same area, with 422 individuals counted mostly in Cabbage Willow Bay and Boatswain Bay (MR, FS, BJ, LR). According to these observers, several thousand birds were probably nesting there. Two recently-fledged birds on Île aux Fermiers near Montréal in late Jul provided a long-awaited and definitive breeding record for this site, where the sparrow has showed up annually for more than two decades (J. Perras et al.). Single White-crowned Sparrows at Sorel 18 Jun (C. Geoffroy) and at Sacré-Cœur-de-Marie, near Thetford Mines 5-7 Jul (L. Lemoine) were well s. of their breeding range.

A pair whose both members were carefully identified as Western Meadowlarks nested successfully at Saint-Eugène-de-Guigues, Témiscamingue 8-22 Jul, raising at least 2 young (JF, ph.). One of the highlights of the summer was the discovery of the first nests ever reported in the Region for the **Orchard Oriole**. One was discovered 25 Jun at Saint-Armand, where 3 young were successfully fledged 3 Jul (JG. Papineau et al., m. ob.). A second nest was discovered at Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue, Montréal 26 Jun, a mere 24 hours later; 4 young left this nest 29 Jun (B. Barnhurst, R. Perreault, m. ob.). In addition, an ad. male was seen at Cap Tourmente 6 Jun (R. Lepage, *vide* JM. Giroux), and an apparent juv. at Saint-Hubert 28 Jul (R. Belhumeur). The Baltimore Oriole was reported from several localities in Gaspésie throughout Jun, and breeding was finally confirmed at Restigouche 2 Jul, a first for this region (C. Pitre).

ADDENDUM

The Black-headed Grosbeak present at Sainte-Brigitte-de-Laval last winter continued through 22 Mar (ME. Lepage, J. Marcotte, *vide* MR).

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New England



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Early summer in New England was cool, wet, and relatively sunny this year. In the Boston area, temperatures averaged slightly below normal for the second month in a row, a situation that had not existed in southern New England since late in 2000, and rainfall in Bean Town was 3.9 cm above the average. In marked contrast, July was hot, dry, and sunny, and the average Boston temperature of 75.1° F made the month the 12th hottest in 132 years. An extreme heat wave in early July significantly helped bring up the month-long average. Not

surprisingly, the month also ranked 22nd as the driest in 132 years, with measurable amounts of rain having fallen on only seven days.

The impact of this rather disparate early summer weather on breeding birds was definitely reflected in some early-season nesting failures in Bald Eagles, quite possibly Massachusetts tern breeding success, and Eastern Bluebird productivity. Given the known mortality for closely monitored species such as bluebirds, it seems quite likely that other less carefully monitored cavity-nesting species may also have taken a hit as a result of the cool, wet weather in June. Otherwise, things seemed pretty normal among Regional breeding populations, in addition to some notable successes. The nesting of Sandhill

Cranes in Maine for the third consecutive year was without question the zenith of breeding bird activity in New England this season, although the confirmed breeding of Wilson's Phalaropes in Maine, an event marking only the third confirmed breeding locality on the East Coast of the United States, wasn't too shabby either! At least two Caspian Terns nests were located at Lake Champlain in Vermont this year, but unfortunately neither was successful. More optimistic was the spectacular growth of Common Tern breeding numbers at New Hampshire's Isles of Shoals. Other nesting activities worthy of comment pertain to the near saturation of Rhode Island Double-crested Cormorant colonies, the first natural, cliff-nesting of Peregrine Falcons in Massachusetts in over half a century, and the continued decline in the Region's American Kestrel and Golden-winged Warbler populations.

Although early summer is not a time of year generally known for producing rarities, this season held its own, with a Swainson's Hawk and a record number of Mississippi Kites in Massachusetts, a Boreal Owl (actually in late May) in New Hampshire, and a Western Kingbird in Maine. All told, a very interesting summer!

Abbreviations: A.S.N.H. (Audubon Society of New Hampshire), E.M.H.W. (Eastern Massachusetts Hawk Watch), G.B.N.W.R. (Great Bay N.W.R., Newington, *Stratford*, NH), M.D.F.W. (Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife), M.S.S.F. (Myles Standish State Forest, *Plymouth*, MA), Noman's Land (*Dukes*, MA), N. & S. Monomoy I. (Monomoy N.W.R., Chatham, *Barnstable*, MA), Penikese I. (*Dukes*, MA), Plum I. (Parker River N.W.R., Newbury/Rowley, *Essex*, MA), South Beach (Chatham, *Barnstable*, MA), S.S.B.C. (South Shore Bird Club), Trustom Pond N.W.R. (*Washington*, RI), W.M.V.O.A. (Western Massachusetts Voice of Audubon).

LOONS THROUGH VULTURES

Commensurate with the increase in Vermont Common Loons, 39 pairs produced 53 chicks (not including L. Champlain) for a record new state high count (E. Hanson, *vide* JN). The only breeding confirmations of Pied-billed Grebe in s. New England were a pair with 2 young at Trustom Pond N.W.R. 7 Jun (R. Larson, G. Williams, *vide* DE) and an ad. with 4 young at Spencer, *Worcester*, MA 25 Jun (JL). Lingers included a Horned Grebe at Scarborough, *Cumberland*, ME 25 Jun (S. Bloomfield) and a Red-necked Grebe at Cape Elizabeth, *Cumberland*, ME 12 Jun (*vide* KG).

A significant, early-season concentration of

seabirds occurred off Cape Cod where 3600 Greater Shearwaters, 2000 Sooty Shearwaters, 18 Manx Shearwaters, and 1600 Wilson's Storm-Petrels were tallied off Provincetown, *Barnstable*, MA 15 Jun (BN). Less impressive, but still notable, were a Northern Fulmar, 89 Sooty Shearwaters, and 1410 Northern Gannets at Andrew's Point, Rockport, *Essex*, MA 20 Jun (RH). Wilson's Storm-Petrels were particularly numerous in coastal New England throughout the period, as indicated by 7000 at Wellfleet, *Barnstable*, MA 29 Jul (MF), and comments by Greg Hanisek suggest that in Long Island Sound off Connecticut, small numbers of storm-petrels are becoming increasingly routine (GH). At last year's newly discovered Leach's Storm-Petrel colony at Noman's Land off Martha's Vineyard, at least 10 occupied nests were counted 11 Jun (TF), and at the established Penikese I. colony, five pairs were suspected of breeding (*vide* J. Garvey). In the Ocean State, a grand total of 2175 nesting pairs of Double-crested Cormorants is now thought to be nearing the saturation point (RF, CR *vide* DE); however, 850 pairs of cormorants at Weepecket I. in Buzzards Bay 18 Jun (CB) is down from a total of 1878 pairs there during the 1994-1995 Massachusetts Coastal Colonial Waterbird Inventory.

Least Bitterns nested for the 2nd year in a row at Willowdale S.F., Ipswich, *Essex* (JB), and 1-2 birds at Stubbs Pond, G.B.N.W.R. 18 Jun—8 Jul (SM) were potential breeders as well. The pair counts of nesting wading birds at Kettle I., *Essex*, MA included 73 Great Egrets, 140 Snowy Egrets, approximately 10 Little Blue Herons, 6 Black-crowned Night-Herons, and 41 Glossy Ibis (SP), all of which are down slightly from a careful nest count made in 2000. In Rhode Island, pair counts of colonies in Narragansett Bay included 251 Great Egrets, 90 Snowy Egrets, 5 Little Blue Herons (down from 17 nests last year), 233 Black-crowned Night-Herons, and 392 Glossy Ibis (up from 185 last year; all RF, CR, *vide* DE). Currently in s. New England, only Great Egret and Glossy Ibis (in Rhode Island) appear to be stable or increasing; however, in the Ocean State, night-herons have dropped from 300-500 pairs in the 1990s and 500-700 pairs in the 1980s. It seems pretty clear that something serious may be happening to Black-crowned Night-Herons, just as it did half a century ago as result of DDT. A pair of Yellow-crowned Night-Herons in New Haven, *New Haven*, CT was the farthest e. that the species has ever conclusively nested in the Nutmeg State (*vide* GH).

Despite the continued presence of as many as 4 Black Vultures in the vicinity of Sheffield,

Berkshire, MA (v. o.) throughout the period, conclusive nesting in the s. Berkshires has yet to be confirmed.

WATERFOWL THROUGH RAPTORS

A Snow Goose in Sheffield, *Berkshire*, MA in early Jul (W.M.V.O.A.) was significantly late, as was a Brant at West Alburg, *Franklin*, VT 25 Jun (TM) and another at Winter Harbor, *Hancock*, ME 29 Jul (WT). Two broods of Northern Shovelers at Stratton I., *Saco* (*vide* S. Hall, JD) provided rare breeding evidence for s. Maine. In a state with no breeding records, 3 Ring-necked Ducks present in Rhode Island during Jun and Jul were intriguing (*vide* DE). In New Hampshire, out-of-season scaup included a Greater Scaup at G.B.N.W.R. 8-25 Jun (SM) and a Lesser Scaup at Exeter, *Rockingham* 12-21 Jul (SM, DA). Common Eiders continued to increase as breeders in Massachusetts: broods were seen at Bourne, *Plymouth*; Boston, *Suffolk*; and Gloucester, *Essex* (B.O.). Unusual inland in summer was a Common Goldeneye at Montague, *Franklin*, MA 22 Jul (RP). Despite the fact that Ruddy Ducks are sporadic breeders in the Region, apparently none of the 14 at Fort Fairchild, *Aroostook*, ME in late Jul (BS), the 9 at Stamford, *Fairfield*, CT 16 Jun (FG), or the 19 at Middletown, *Newport*, RI 23 Jul (J. Manning *vide* DE) showed any evidence of nesting.

Although Osprey numbers in Vermont were down slightly from the record set in 2001, a total of 61 young fledged from 36 nests was still above the species's Vermont recovery goal set in 1994 (J. Gobeille, *vide* JN). In Massachusetts, a careful census of the Bay State's largest Osprey colony along the Westport R. in South Dartmouth and Westport, *Bristol* documented 68 active nests that fledged 75 young (DC, AP). A summary of active Bald Eagle nests in New England this year indicates that there are 269 in Maine, 8 in New Hampshire, 8 in Massachusetts, and 6 in Connecticut (*vide* TF). These numbers, and the fact that in the Bay State alone 151 eagle chicks have been fledged since 1989, clearly reflect the remarkable comeback of this magnificent raptor in New England. In Massachusetts, a total of 9 Mississippi Kites at North Truro, *Barnstable* 1 Jun (D. Manchester, E.M.H.W.) smashed all previous Regional single-day counts, and singles at *Barnstable*, *Barnstable* (S. Hecker) and *Lincoln*, *Middlesex* (W. Harrington) 6 Jun further augmented this plethora of kites. For the 2nd year in a row, Northern Harriers successfully nested at Plum I. (RH, JB), and a pair with 2 young at Stamford Great Meadows, *Fairfield*, CT (CB)

was at the only known breeding site in the state. A nesting pair of Sharp-shinned Hawks at Breakheart Reservation, Saugus, *Essex*, MA (D. and I. Jewell) was remarkably close to urban Boston for this relatively rare Bay State breeding species. A total of 124 Broad-winged Hawks at North Truro, *Barnstable*, MA 1-21 Jun (E.M.H.W.) is a reminder of how late subad. Broad-wingeds are still on the move, but a dark-morph **Swainson's Hawk** at Chickataubut Hill, *Norfolk*, MA 19 Jun (NS, MMc) was both anomalous as well as a rare early-summer occurrence. Further indication of the continued decline in Regional American Kestrel populations was provided by an historic nest box program in the cranberry bogs of *Plymouth*, MA, which this year saw 34 pairs use 68 boxes and fledged 110 young, the lowest totals in the past decade (JM, MM). Out-of-season Merlin reports in Massachusetts included singles at Medford, *Middlesex* 5 Jun (MR) and Hingham, *Plymouth* 21 Jul (DL); a nesting attempt at Plymouth, *Grafton*, NH (*vide* BT) was apparently unsuccessful. Among five nesting pairs of Peregrine Falcons in Massachusetts, a pair that fledged 4 young at an historic eyrie in Erving, *Franklin* (*vide* M.D.F.W.) marked the first "natural" nesting in the Bay State since 1951. A bittersweet reminder of the history of this splendid raptor is that by 1966 there were no Peregrines nesting anywhere east of the Mississippi R., and the last time the Erving site fledged young was 1942. Regional data suggest that a total of 54 pairs of Peregrines fledged 219 chicks throughout New England this year, including 14 pairs in New Hampshire—the highest count in that state since the post-DDT era (*vide* C. Martin, A.S.N.H.) and a first-time nesting on Rhode Island's Newport Bridge (*vide* TF).

RAILS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

A King Rail at G.B.N.W.R. 8 Jun (ph. SM) was at the n. extreme of the species's range in New England, and another, possibly a subad., at Scarborough Marsh, *Cumberland*, ME 31 Jul (DM et al.) was even more exralimital. A New Hampshire marshbird survey turned up a Common Moorhen at G.B.N.W.R. 25 Jun (SM) for only the 3rd Granite State record since 1995, whereas a brood of American Coots in Jul at Stratton I., Saco, *York*, ME (S. Hall *vide* JD) represented an unusual breeding record for the Pine Tree State and a first for Stratton I. Two coots observed in mid-Jul were the first summer records in the Ocean State since at least the early 1970s (*vide* DE).

In Massachusetts, 530 pairs of Piping Plovers represented a 7% increase from 2001

SA Unquestionably the most exciting breeding news of the period was the successful nesting of **Sandhill Cranes** in n. *Kennebec*, ME (SM, v. o.) for the third year in a row. In an effort not to disrupt the initial breeding efforts in 2000 and 2001, along with nesting activity this season, the precise breeding location is being discreetly withheld. This year, a pair of cranes fledged 2 young, while in previous years only single young were fledged. Historical accounts suggest that the Sandhill Crane was a regular migrant in New England several centuries ago, and that occasional breeding may even have occurred. However, "There are no records that unambiguously document breeding by Sandhill Cranes in Maine or New England" (Melvin, S. 2002. First breeding records and historical status of Sandhill Cranes in Maine and New England. *Northeastern Naturalist* 9: 193-202). With the continued increase of this species in Ontario and the Upper Great Lakes region, perhaps additional nesting efforts in the wilds of n. Maine should be optimistically anticipated? Additional Sandhill Crane reports were singles at Monroe, *Grafton*, NH (*vide* BT) and Barrington, *Bristol*, RI 29 Jun (SR).

(*vide* SM, M.D.F.W.), and an intensive effort to census breeding Bay State American Oystercatchers revealed a total of 150 pairs, a significant number, when one considers that the species only reclaimed its historic breeding range in New England as recently as 1969. Most notable in the northward-bound, misplaced, and summering shorebird category were 5 Black-bellied Plovers and a White-rumped Sandpiper at Alburg, *Franklin*, VT 9 Jun (TM, RL), 60 Red Knots at Edgartown, Martha's Vineyard 5 Jun (AK), 650 Semipalmated Sandpipers at N. Monomoy 3 Jun (BN), 2 Purple Sandpipers at Isles of Shoals, NH throughout the period (*vide* BT), 2 Marbled Godwits at South Beach 3-18 Jul (BN) and another at Sherwood I., Westport, *Fairfield*, CT 15-17 Jun (A. Hand, *vide* GH). Although most maximum counts of south-bound shorebird species in New England are not normally attained until early Aug, the Jul tallies worthy of mention included 250 Willets at South Beach 16 Jul (BN), 112 Whimbrels at Wellfleet 28 Jul (MF), and 1000 Semipalmated Plovers, 51 Hudsonian Godwits, 900 Red Knots, 6000 Sanderlings, 4000 Semipalmated Sandpipers, and 3000 Short-billed Dowitchers at South Beach 30 Jul (BN). In the unusual

shorebird category belong an American Avocet at Plum I. Jul 3 (v.o., *vide* B.O.) and a Ruff (Reeve) at Scarborough Marsh, *Cumberland*, ME 27-31 Jul (LB, v. o.). As if the nesting of Sandhill Cranes weren't enough, **Wilson's Phalaropes** successfully bred for the first time in Maine: two nests were located at Scarborough Marsh, *Cumberland* 14 Jun (LB, PV), where 2 juvs. were subsequently observed in Jul. Apart from the traditional (?) Plum I. locality and a single confirmed nesting attempt at North Monomoy in 1980, this nesting marks only the 3rd breeding station known on the Atlantic Coast s. of Atlantic Canada.

JAEGERS THROUGH ALCIDS

Several South Polar Skuas were reported from the relatively warm waters of Cox's Ledge s. of Block I., RI, including singles on 21 Jun (JSt.J) and 20 Jul (ST) and (2) 18 Jul (CN). Although skuas are certainly regular in these waters, observers are reminded that the precise distribution, seasonality, and possibly even the taxonomy (!) of skua species in the w. North Atlantic continues to represent something of an identification frontier. Let's be careful out there! Two ad. Long-tailed Jaegers at Andrew's Point, Rockport, *Essex*, MA 15 Jun (RH) were most unusual inshore, although the observation falls within the period when this species typically moves northward along the outer Continental Shelf of North America.

At their Regional breeding stronghold in Massachusetts, a total of 1094 pairs of Laughing Gulls was 17% lower than last season (*vide* M.D.F.W.). Two Little Gulls were noted at Lynn Beach, *Essex*, MA 21-25 Jul (v. o., *vide* B.O.), and the most interesting of seven Lesser Black-backed Gull reports Regionwide was one at Longmeadow, *Hampden*, MA 7 Jul (*vide* W.M.V.O.A.). Certainly out of season was a Glaucous Gull at Cape Elizabeth, *Cumberland*, ME 5 Jun—27 Jul (KG, LB), and a Sabine's Gull 22 km. e. of Mt. Desert Rock in the Gulf of Maine 23 Jul (*vide* WT) was close to a month earlier than expected.

A Regionally rare Gull-billed Tern graced South Beach 16-31 Jul (BN, PF). This season, single Caspian Tern nests with eggs were found at Popasquash I. and Young I., L. Champlain, VT (M. LaBarr, D. Capen et al., *vide* JN); however, neither nest was successful. "Try, try again!" is the best way to describe the breeding attempts of Caspian Terns in New England, as this is the 3rd year in a row that unsuccessful nesting behavior has been observed. Two Royal Terns at Popham Beach, Phippsburg, *Sagadahoc*, ME 22 Jun (PV) were beyond the range of the species's regular mid-summer peregrinations. Granite State tern restoration

efforts enjoyed success this summer when 25 pairs of Roseate Terns fledged 16 young and 1700 pairs of Common Terns fledged 2500 young at White I. and Seavey I., Isles of Shoals (*vide SM*). These numbers are especially notable when compared to the six pairs of Common Terns present there in 1997. Breeding results in Massachusetts were less optimistic, possibly because of Coyote predation at one large colony, or because of cool, wet weather in Jun. Bay State breeding pair numbers and their percent of change from 2001 were 1460 Roseate Terns (down 14%), 13,608 Common Terns (down 5%), 5 Arctic Terns (down 29%), and 2789 Least Terns (down 18%; *vide M.D.F.W.*). Black Skimmers apparently failed to breed successfully in New England this year.

Seasonally unusual was the appearance of a Common Murre at Andrew's Point, Rockport, *Essex* 7 Jun (J. Soucy, *vide B.O.*), and the discovery of a dead Atlantic Puffin at Martha's Vineyard 26 Jun (*vide TF*) was also most unseasonable.

CUCKOOS THROUGH THRUSHES

A half-day breeding bird survey in Plymouth's M.S.S.F. produced a tally of 16 Black-billed Cuckoos and 17 Yellow-billed Cuckoos, totals reflective of a local abundance of army worms and tent caterpillars (KA, S.S.B.C.). A nest of Barn Owls with 7 young at Middletown, *Newport*, RI 11 Jul (J. Zybrowski, *vide DE*) represents the only known nest-site on the Ocean State mainland, while 2 juv. Northern Saw-whet Owls at Cornwall, *Litchfield*, CT in mid-Jul (G. Buck, *vide GH*) offered scarce proof of the breeding of this forest gnome in the Nutmeg State. A belated yet significant report in light of last summer's nesting in the Region was an ad. **Boreal Owl** at Mt. Parker, Bartlett, *Carroll*, NH 29 May (R. Horak, *vide P. Hunt*).

In addition to the regular presence of Chuck-will's-widows on Martha's Vineyard, this summer also found summering individuals at Wellfleet (*vide B.O.*) and Truro, *Barnstable* 30 Jun (T. Lipsky, *vide B.O.*). The only notable tally of Whip-poor-wills was 37 at Lancaster, *Worcester*, MA 24 Jun (RL). A well-documented Red-bellied Woodpecker nest at Windham, *Rockingham*, NH (MH) offered firm evidence of this species's continued spread into n. New England. Possibly even more notable was a Three-toed Woodpecker at New Sweden, *Aroostook*, ME 22 Jul (ph. N. Hudak, *vide JD*).

A singing Acadian Flycatcher at Pawtucketaway S.P., *Nottingham*, NH 4-20 Jun (A. & B. Delorey) apparently gave no indication of breeding, and 5 at Tiverton, *Newport*, RI 22 Jun (RE) was a robust total for the Ocean State. Most unusual was a **Western Kingbird** at

Monhegan I., *Lincoln*, ME 13-15 Jun (M. Allen, DE, ph. DA). This is the 2nd period record of Western Kingbird in New England in three years! Further evidence of the continued spread of Common Ravens in s. New England was obtained this summer when a pair fledged 2 young on a cell tower at F. Gilbert Hills S.F. on the Wrentham/Foxborough line, *Norfolk*, MA (*vide TF*). In addition at least one pair probably nested somewhere in the Blue Hills, *Norfolk*, MA (v. o.), per the Spring Season report. A pair of Cliff Swallows at Hopkington, *Washington*, RI 1 Jun (G. Williams, *vide DE*) holds the distinction of being the only known breeding pair in the state. The production of 81 young by 21 pairs of Eastern Bluebirds on a 134-box bluebird trail in *Plymouth*, MA was 42 less than in 2001 (JM), allegedly due to losses sustained during cool, wet weather in Jun.

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

Not a single report of a Golden-winged Warbler was received for the period, although a total of 3 "Brewster's" Warblers and 2 "Lawrence's" Warblers was noted, including a "Lawrence's" at Sebago Lake S.P., *Cumberland*, ME (J. Vogel, *vide JD*). Wandering Tennessee Warblers, possibly failed breeders, appeared in Massachusetts at four different localities in Jul (B.O.), 3 of them on 7 Jul, clearly suggesting that something out of the ordinary was happening with this species this summer. A Bay-breasted Warbler at Mt. Greylock, *Berkshire*, MA 23 Jun (J. Hoye *vide B.O.*) was most unusual at that location so late in the season, while in Vermont, 3 Cerulean Warblers at Highgate, *Franklin* 9-10 Jun (TM, RL) and 2 at Colchester, *Chittenden* 13 Jun (TM) were at more traditional locations. In Massachusetts, apparently lonesome male Prothonotary Warblers were present in Hingham, *Plymouth* (from May) 1-4 Jun (*vide B.O.*) and Pepperell, *Middlesex* 21 Jul (M. Resch, *vide B.O.*). A Yellow-throated Warbler at Freetown S.F., Fall River, *Bristol* 1 Jun (RH) and single Kentucky Warblers, both 4 Jun, at Belchertown, *Hampshire* (MW) and Ipswich, *Essex* (JB) were both likely late migrants in the Bay State. A Yellow-breasted Chat at Dover, *Rockingham*, NH 4-5 Jun (MS) was likely also a migrant; however, 2 at Ninigrit Park, *Washington*, RI 8 Jun (G. Williams, *vide DE*) were at the only known breeding site in the state.

A spectacular total of 373 Eastern Towhees at M.S.S.F. 23 Jun (KA, S.S.B.C.) gives heightened meaning to the expression, "Build it and they will come." The extensive pine barren and shrubland habitat of this spectacular state forest undoubtedly supports higher breeding densities of several early successional habitat

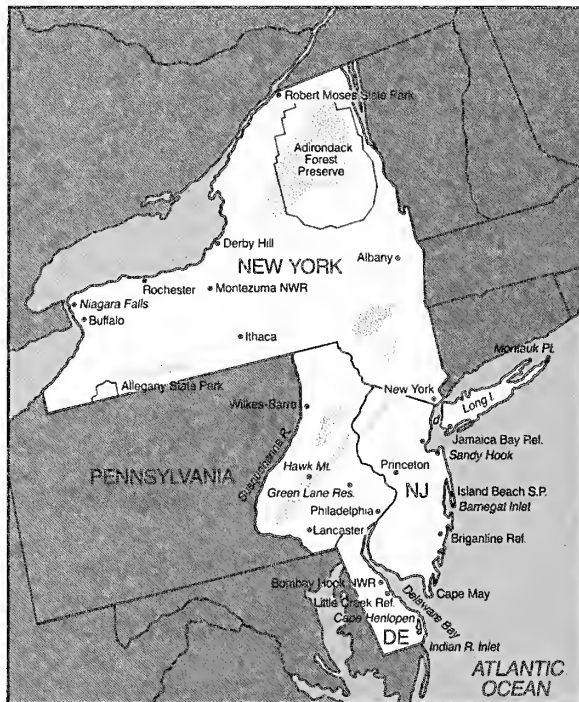
specialists (e.g., Whip-poor-will, Hermit Thrush, Pine Warbler, Prairie Warbler, and Eastern Towhee) than almost any comparable area in New England. Although Clay-colored Sparrows again made their now-annual early summer appearances, none provided convincing evidence of nesting. The greatest reported concentration of Grasshopper Sparrows was 53 males at Ft. Devens, Lancaster, *Worcester*, MA (RL), and yet again 5 Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows were found at Stratham, *Rockingham*, NH 14 Jun (SM), well s. of where they are "supposed to be." A pair of Dark-eyed Juncos at Thomaston, *Litchfield*, CT 14 Jun (JM) was at the same site where a juv. was observed last year. Misplaced best describes a Blue Grosbeak at Scituate, *Plymouth*, MA 26 Jun (E. Burbank, *vide B.O.*), a Painted Bunting at Biddeford Pool, *York*, ME (from May) 1-2 Jun (v. o., *vide JD*), and a Dickcissel at Sunderland, *Franklin*, MA 2-13 Jun (DC).

A Yellow-headed Blackbird at Monhegan I., *Lincoln*, ME in mid-Jun (B. Boynton, *vide JD*) was clearly not where it belonged. Five Boat-tailed Grackles were noted at New England's only nesting location at Stratford Great Meadows, *Fairfield*, CT (FG), and a count of 12 Orchard Orioles at Woburn, *Middlesex*, MA 28 Jul (MR) was quite a robust total for mid-summer. Notable in se. Massachusetts, particularly in the wake of a light flight year, was the confirmed breeding of Pine Siskins at Middleborough, *Plymouth*, MA 3 Jul (AB).

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Hudson-Delaware



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This Region baked and steamed in summer 2002. A prolongation of May's cool, wet weather into mid-June provided the only relief. July was the second hottest in 47 years at Rochester and the eighth driest on record in New York City. Drought-stressed vegetation produced little fruit or seeds (with the exception of Mountain Ash) and "a tough winter" was predicted (RPY).

The main exceptions to a largely successful nesting season were some nest mortality in northerly Peregrines attributed to May's snowfall, nest-box deaths in the 14-16 Jun cold spell, and a northeaster on 24 Jul that coincided with the full moon spring tide and devastated beach-nesting colonial birds in New Jersey.

Fieldwork remained intense for the second edition of the New York breeding bird atlas, some of whose results appear below. It was not a survey year for most colonial waterbirds.

Forster's Tern, Summer Tanager, Clay-colored Sparrow, Blue Grosbeak, and Dickcissel gave signs of expanding toward the north and east. Pennsylvania got its first fully documented Curlew Sandpiper, but otherwise rarities were few.

Observers and contributors in eastern Pennsylvania will note that records for that subregion will in future issues be included with records from the rest of that state, edited by Bob Leberman, alongside records from West Virginia and Ohio. Please send Pennsylvania records from August through November 2002 and later to Bob at <rleberm@charterpa.net>.

Abbreviations: Bombay Hook (Bombay Hook N.W.R., near Smyrna, Kent, DE); Brig (Brigantine Unit, Edward P. Forsythe N.W.R., Atlantic, NJ); Conejohela Flats (Susquehanna R. at Washington Boro, Lancaster, PA); D.N.R.E.C. (Delaware Dept. of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation); The Four Brothers (islands in L. Champlain, off Willsboro, Essex, NY); Jamaica Bay (Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, New York City); Lakehurst (Lakehurst Naval

Air Engineering Station, Ocean, NJ); L. I. (Long Island, NY); N.J.D.F.G.W. (New Jersey Dept. of Fish, Game & Wildlife); N.Y.D.E.C. (New York Dept. of Environmental Conservation); Penn-Warner Tract (spoil basin along Delaware R., Falls Twp., Bucks, PA). Place names in *italics* are counties.

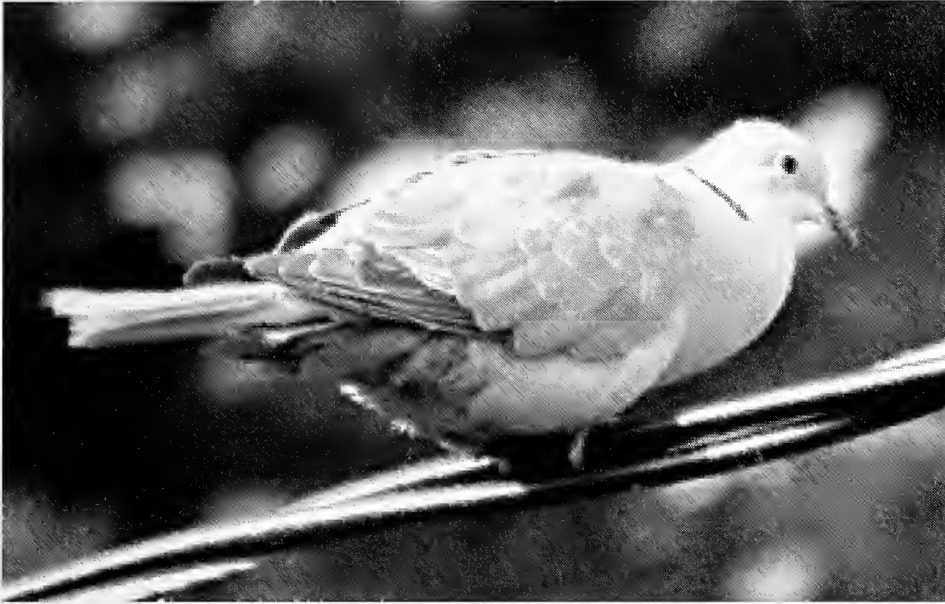
GREBES THROUGH CORMORANTS

State-endangered Pied-billed Grebes had young at three Delaware locations again, two of which (Hangman's Gut near Odessa, and Port Mahon, both *Newcastle*) were not among last year's three. Their main remaining nesting area in e. Pennsylvania, Glen Morgan L., *Berks*, contained only two pairs 30 Jun. The water level is dropping at this site, which is slated for development and closed to visitors (Ken Lebo). The only rarity found among offshore tubenoses was an unidentified **albatross** that circled Jack Passie's fishing boat 37 km. se. of Montauk Pt., L.I. 14 Jun. All w. North Atlantic albatross records have been of Black-browed and Yellow-nosed.

Brown Pelicans have wandered into this Region every summer since 1982, a phenomenon linked to the return of Menhaden (*Brevoortia tyrannus*). Once again, they made a few scrapes and nests on Barnegat Bay (JBU), though their numbers were well below last summer's. An apparently wild imm. Brown Pelican went far astray on L. Ontario. It was first seen 6 Jun at Hamlin Beach, *Monroe* (WS, m. ob.). What is presumed the same bird reappeared 19-25 Jul about 64 km e. at Sodus Pt., *Wayne* (M. Menuhin, KF et al.), and again 26 Jul a further 48 km. e. at Sandy Pond, *Oswego* (Bernie Carr, Don Coogan). While this was the Rochester area's first (one there in Sep 1982 escaped from a private collection), Brown Pelicans are not entirely unprecedented on L. Ontario. Earlier records come from *Oswego* in Dec 1920 and *Niagara* in Jun 1950 and Jun 1992. New York State authorities oiled Double-crested Cormorant eggs on Little Galloo I., in e. L. Ontario, for the 4th year in a five-year program. Nests were down to about 4780 (Jim Farquhar, N. Y. D. E. C.). They increased in New York harbor (PK) and remained at about 2500 pairs in the Region's next largest colony on the Four Brothers (JMCP).

HERONS THROUGH WATERFOWL

The great Pea Patch I. heronry in Delaware Bay has dwindled to 1854 pairs, the lowest since censusing began and far below the 12,000 pairs of 1994. The worst natural threat is thought to be nematode infestations of the chicks of Snowy Egrets and other species, one



A Eurasian Collared-Dove at Hamlin Beach, Monroe County, New York 8 June—29 July 2002 constituted the first New York record away from Long Island. Photograph by Willie D'Anna.

of the costs of colonial densities. A growing form of human disturbance is kayakers, many of whom approach with long lenses. One wonders, too, about the agricultural and industrial pollution so visible along Delaware Bay. Finally, such a colony generates its own natural succession, as bird droppings kill off essential vegetation. The Highbush Blueberry in which Cattle Egrets, Glossy Ibis, and Black-crowned Night Herons once nested died out by 1999, and the *Phragmites* may have become too thick for them, while the taller Pin Oaks and Black Gums preferred by Great Blue Herons and Great Egrets remain (Rob Line, D. N. R. E. C.).

Great Blue Herons do not nest on this Region's coastal plain except in Delaware, where they are a major component at Pea Patch. Delaware conservation authorities are also following four smaller colonies. Great Blue Herons are expanding into populated areas of se. Pennsylvania, including a new colony in *Montgomery*, under pressure from development, and two in *Bucks* (Van Sciver L. and L. Nockamixon), making a total of 18 colonies ranging from singles to 95 nests in e. Pennsylvania (DB). Great Egrets expanded this Region's northernmost colony on Motor I. in the Niagara R. at Buffalo to 9 ads. and 20 young 17 Jun (WW). A pair was rearranging sticks in a Great Blue Heron colony in n. *Wayne*, NY (RGS, Susan Spahn), but nesting could not be confirmed. One confident Great Egret ate goldfish from a tiny backyard pond in Brooklyn, New York City in late Jul (Ron Ellard). No Tricolored Herons nested on Pea

SA Only about 20 pairs of Cattle Egrets used Pea Patch I. this summer, compared with about 4000 in 1994. After the abrupt and unexplained disappearance in 1989 of the great colony on the Susquehanna R. at Washington Boro, *Lancaster*, Cattle Egrets appear not to nest in Pennsylvania at all. The picture is not entirely negative; the 2001 New Jersey colonial waterbird census found 110 pairs in two colonies, up from 29 pairs in four colonies in 1995 (DJ). In New York, about three pairs continued at Jamaica Bay (DR), and 5 chicks were banded on the Four Brothers in L. Champlain (JMCP). But the days are long gone when Cattle Egrets were rapidly colonizing the Northeast.

Patch, although 6 nested once again in a gull colony in Delaware Shores S. P. (HN); the Long Island population is presumed stable at about a dozen pairs.

It was a banner summer for ibis. An ad. White Ibis, quite rare here, was at Bombay Hook 2 Jun (MG, FR), while a juv. was at Cape May 30 Jul (PL et al.). Five White Ibis (2 first-summer "calico" and 3 juvs.) remained several days after 2 Jul at Gordon Pond, Cape Henlopen S. P., DE (MH et al.). An imm. at Hangman's Run, Odessa, DE 26 Jul (Bruce Peterjohn) was a new record for *New Castle*. White-faced Ibis were discovered in all three coastal states, possibly more through closer scrutiny than changed status. One or 2 were at Bombay Hook 2 Jun+ (MG,

APE), and 3 were regular at Brig from 26 Jun+ (CK). White-faced Ibis are nearly annual in these states, but less so in New York, where 2 were exceptional: Cow Meadow, Freeport, *Nassau* 4 Jul to midmonth (AG, m. ob.) and Jamaica Bay after 5 Jul (Angus Wilson, m. ob.). Though this species recently expanded its breeding range e. along the Gulf coast to Alabama, breeding is not suggested in this Region.

Growing numbers of Ruddy Ducks are summering, such as 290 at Batavia Waste Water Treatment Plant, *Genesee*, NY (MM), 9 at Green Lane Res., *Montgomery*, PA 27 Jun (George Franchois), and 6 at the Penn-Warner Tract 22-29 Jun (DF), but we had no evidence of breeding anywhere.

RAPTORS THROUGH CRANES

Osprey data were incomplete, but on e. Long Island, where productivity has been low perhaps because of insufficient prey, preliminary results of about 290 ads. and 370 young were the best in some areas since 1992 (Mike Scheibel, N.Y.D.E.C.). New Jersey productivity was estimated at 1.4 fledged young per nest statewide, but once again nests were unsuccessful for unexplained reasons in *Cape May* (KCI).

Following multiple spring reports, 4 Mississippi Kites were still at Cape May 6 Jun (Michael O'Brien); singles were seen thereafter until a final 2 on 6 Jul (Bill Boyle). There is still no evidence of breeding closer than n. Virginia. One over Palmyra 8 Jun was the 2nd *Burlington*, NJ record (TBa). Southeastern Pennsylvania also continues to be visited in early summer by Mississippi Kites. One described as an ad. was at Peace Valley Park, *Bucks*, PA 2 Jun (Ian Baldock), while a subad. frequented Easton, *Northampton* and neighboring *Bucks* Apr—26 Jun (AK).

New York's breeding Bald Eagle population grew again, to 72 active pairs (62 last summer) that fledged 92 young (83 last summer; P. Nye, N.Y.D.E.C.). A joint project of the New York City Parks Dept. and British Petroleum hacked 4 Wisconsin eaglets in Inwood Park, Manhattan. The first was airborne 26 Jul. New Jersey is up to 34 pairs, of which 21 successfully fledged young (KCI), and e. Pennsylvania up to 29 (DB). Delaware had 12 successful pairs in 2002, up from three (unsuccessful) nests in the 1960s and seven four years ago.

Northern Goshawks nested as far s. as West Pt., *Orange*, NY and Rockaway Twp., *Morris*, NJ, where three broods took a toll on local grouse and turkey poults (RR). Red-tailed Hawks were on the move early; 364 imm.

moved along the s. shore of L. Ontario past the Braddock Bay Hawk Watch, *Monroe*, 21-31 Jul (Dave Tetlow). New York City's Red-tailed Hawks have spread from the original Fifth Avenue site (unsuccessful this year) to seven other city park locations. A pair tried unsuccessfully to nest on Philadelphia City Hall.

Since the first New York Merlin nest was discovered in 1992, Merlins now breed in 36 atlas blocks in six Adirondack counties. Peregrines slipped slightly to 45 territorial pairs in New York (48, a record, last year), 33 of which produced 78 young (96 last year). Snowfall in May probably caused the setback. About 17 of these pairs use natural sites (Barbara Loucks, N.Y.D.E.C.). Proud New York City officials called the city's 12 pairs with their 23 young (one more was hit by Brooklyn Bridge traffic on its maiden flight) "the largest concentration [of Peregrines] in the world" (*New York Times*, 25 June 2002, p. F3). In New Jersey, 17 active pairs, all on man-made structures, produced 25 chicks (KCI). Two pairs have become established on their own on Wilkes-Barre area, PA bridges (WR).



This White-winged Dove remained at Hamlin Beach, Monroe County, New York 8-18 June 2002. The species has become an almost annual visitor to New York since the early 1990s. *Photograph by Willie D'Anna.*

SA There were still 29,000 shorebirds—mostly Sanderlings, Ruddy Turnstones, Red Knots and Semipalmated Sandpipers—at the great Delaware Bay staging ground when the last aerial survey was taken 5 Jun. The peak of 157,000 28 May was about 25% below normal. Semipalmated Sandpipers were particularly reduced, peaking at 50,000 compared to 190,000 last year. Maximum counts of Red Knot (31,700) and Ruddy Turnstone (64,700) were also down. Red Knots are particularly significant because about 80% of the East Coast population stops here in spring; the relatively low weight of banded Red Knots this spring added concern. Only Sanderlings held up: their peak of 14,000 23 May was average. Careful water analysis shows that Horseshoe Crab eggs, the main resource for these shorebirds on route to the Arctic, have become fewer and more patchily distributed, forcing the birds to concentrate on a few beaches. Overharvesting Horseshoe Crabs is clearly damaging this globally significant shorebird staging area (KCI). The same is clearly true in our sister Region to the south, around Chesapeake Bay and the coastal barrier islands.

A pair of Sandhill Cranes near Savannah, n. of Montezuma N.W.R. through Jun and another at Taylor Marsh n. of Honeoye, *Ontario*, into Jun (Mona Rymerson) suggested that New York breeding is only a matter of time (RGS). The species nested in Maine for the first time this summer.

SHOREBIRDS

Drought affected southbound shorebird migration variously. Basically, the birds went where the water level was right. Some celebrated coastal shorebird sites such as the Bombay Hook pools had become "a desert" by late Jul (APE). Delaware shorebirds congregated instead on tidal flats at Taylor's Gut, Woodland Beach W.A. On the other hand, unexpected mudflats created the "show of the period" (AM) at some inland Pennsylvania locations such as the Penn-Warner Tract, which supported hundreds of shorebirds of 10 species in Jul (DF).

Up to 3 Black-necked Stilts were at Brig 10 Jun—11 Jul (m. ob.). The Long Island Piping Plover population has increased from 182 pairs in 1992 to 309 in 2001, with the aid of volunteers who posted nesting areas and constructed predator exclosures. The 2002 breeding season seemed generally productive (Michelle Gibbons, N.Y.D.E.C.). Protection has helped raise Piping Plovers in New Jersey from a low

of 93 nesting pairs in 1998 to 138 this year, though storm tides killed many young (DJ, Todd Pover). Delaware's Piping Plovers have been nursed back from the brink of extirpation. The low point was one chick in 1993. Seven pairs bred in 2002: three at Cape Henlopen, two at nearby Gordon's Pond, and two at Delaware Shores S. P., the first there in 12 years. Seven young were produced (HN). The public accepted beach restrictions fairly well, though barriers and exclosures were broken and four Piping Plover eggs were taken at Gilgo Beach, *Suffolk*, L.I. during the night of 22-23 Jun.

The southernmost substantial Upland Sandpiper breeding site seems to be Lakehurst, where 25 were counted 16 Jun (FV). One across Rte 9 from Dover Air Force Base 9 Jun suggests breeding (APE), but increased security regulations made further observation impossible. Delaware has only three confirmed breeding records.

White-rumped Sandpipers are notoriously late spring migrants, but since they are primarily Great Plains migrants in spring, we see few here. Outstanding among many late spring reports were 9 at Bombay Hook 8 Jun (MI); 9 at the Conejohela Flats 18 Jun (Bob Schutsky); and 87 at Sagonack, Mecox and Georgica Ponds, *Suffolk*, L.I. 16 Jun (HMcG). We know about the plumage of only the Long

Island birds; they were in basic plumage and probably were non-breeders.

A Curlew Sandpiper in alternate plumage videotaped at the Penn-Warner Tract 25 Jul (Dave Wilton, vt. DF, †Nick Pulcinella) was the first fully documented for Pennsylvania, although there have been four earlier sight records, the most recent in 1982. A similar bird at Brig the next day (Pete Dunne et al.) was likely not the same bird. Surprisingly, this was the only coastal record; they are scarcer now than in the 1970s. The only Ruffs were a chestnut male at Brig 5 Jul and again 25 Jul (CK et al.), and a golden and black male at Broadkill Beach, DE, also 5 Jul (Ed Sigda). Unusual inland was a Reeve at the Walker Ave. wetland, Wayne, *Morris*, NJ early Jul+ (Ivan and Jennifer Kossak, m. ob.). The same site attracted a Ruff last year.

Wilson's Phalaropes nested again on L. Champlain at the Chazy River outlets, *Clinton*, NY (BK, CM), site of the Region's first breeding record in 1993. Elsewhere the best count was only 5 at Bombay Hook 30 Jun (MG); they are far scarcer than a decade ago. A Red-necked Phalarope in basic plumage was unexpected 4 Jul at Westhampton Dunes, L.I. (HMcG).

SKUAS THROUGH TERNS

The only South Polar Skua was 32 km s. of Montauk Pt., L.I. 20 Jul (JPa). A Black-headed Gull in full alternate plumage at Bombay Hook 21 Jul (FR et al.), gradually fading over the summer, provided the 2nd Delaware summer record. As Lesser Black-backed Gulls summer ever more regularly, they seem commoner inland than coastally. They were present throughout the period at the Penn-Warner Tract (DF) and summered for the 2nd time at Peace Valley Park, *Bucks*, PA (AM), where 13 were present 27 Jul (Cameron Rutt). They arrived at L. Nockamixon by the 2nd week of Jul (AM). On the coast, singles were at Port Mahon, DE in mid-Jun and Sagaponack, L.I. 20 Jul (HmcG).

As in many summers since 1984, two pairs of Caspian Terns tried to nest on Tow Island, *Ocean*, NJ but were unsuccessful (JBu). A few Sandwich Terns are seen around Cape May Pt. each summer. This summer, 7-10 Sandwich Terns at Cape Henlopen in late Jun and early Jul (MG, FR, MH, Hank Hollowell) were the most ever recorded in Delaware (APE). They now breed n. to Maryland.

Roseate Tern nests were stable at 1783 among the 9000 pairs of Common Terns in the mega-colony on Great Gull I., off e. Long Island (Helen Hays). Most of the smaller Long

Island colonies have disappeared, however (Trish Pelkowski, Marilyn England), increasing this species's vulnerability to disease or accident. A new colony of 150 nests on Cartwright I., in Gardiner's Bay, was a hopeful sign. Volunteers tried to encourage it by building shelters of cloth and wood to simulate this species's preferred concealed nesting sites (Matthew Male). South of the Long Island breeding areas, the only straggler was a banded bird (number unreadable) 28 Jun—21 Jul at Henlopen, where they are unusual (EB, MG). A one-year-old Arctic Tern was at Cape May 7 Jun, a rare local record (ph. KK).

Forster's Terns are expanding at their n. limit. Although the colony established in Jamaica Bay in 1992 remains at about 50-70 pairs (DR), the Forster's Terns that have nested in the marshes of the Great South Bay in Hempstead, *Nassau*, L.I. in small numbers since 1981 have increased to 238 pairs (JZ). Two very young juvs. in Moriches Bay 27 Jul (Art Cooley) suggested possible breeding e. into *Suffolk*. The Long Island Black Skimmer population remains concentrated in two large colonies: Breezy Point, in Gateway National Seashore (520 ads.) and adjacent private land (Sue Gilmore), and Nassau Beach (400 ads.) (JZ).

DOVES THROUGH RAVEN

The Eurasian Collared-Dove colony at Selbyville, DE, near the Maryland line, continues with 5-6 birds. A Eurasian Collared-Dove flew over the Cape May hawk watch 31 Jul (RC). Another at Hamlin Beach, *Monroe* 8 Jun—29 Jul was the first New York record away from Long Island and the first photographed (B. Ewald, ph. KCG, †KF). Ewald found it while looking for a White-winged Dove located earlier that day (Mike Davids, m. ob., ph. KCG, †KF). The latter remained until 18 Jun. White-winged Doves have become nearly annual in New York since the 1990s.

Most Common Nighthawks are now found in natural settings, such as 29 at Lakehurst 16 Jul (FV). The abundant urban rooftop nesting of 20 years ago has nearly vanished, likely a victim of the urban crow explosion. This summer the last holdouts abandoned Wilkes-Barre, PA (WR). A Chuck-will's-widow called in Bristol, *Bucks*, PA for the 4th consecutive summer (DF).

Ruby-throated Hummingbirds had another prodigious summer. Yunick captured 136 May through Aug (96 new bands and 40 returns, including one aged seven years and two months), another record, at Jenny L., *Saratoga*, NY. One bird was recaptured 13

times. Snow in mid-May did not seem to faze them, as long as the sugar water supply held up (a record 600g per day). A yard in Blairstown, *Warren*, NJ, had "more Ruby-throated Hummingbirds than I've ever seen anywhere in the northeast" (AK). Its two feeders took 217 hits in a half hour.

Continuing the recent upward trend of patchily distributed Red-headed Woodpeckers, a pair nested in Hamptonburg Twp., *Orange*, NY for the first time in over 25 years (John Tramontano). Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers at Jenny L., *Saratoga*, NY spent a lot of time defending their holes in birch trees from the Ruby-throated Hummingbirds.

Following the astonishing Common Raven at Sandy Hook last spring, further coastal observations came from Jamaica Bay 8 Jun (AG) and Jones Beach S. P., L.I. 24 Jul (AW). One was at Tenafly, *Bergen*, NJ, on the w. slope of the Hudson Palisades, 1 Jul (BMo).

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

SA Golden-winged Warblers are "on the road to extinction" in New Jersey, according to Dennis Miranda, who has been surveying the state for the Golden-winged Warbler atlas project conducted by Cornell with the support of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (see <<http://www.birds.cornell.edu/gowap>>). Miranda estimates that only 50-60 pairs remain, mostly in powerline cuts n. and w. of West Milford, *Passaic*, where they are exposed to Blue-winged Warblers. Most of their songs are already atypical. Golden-winged Warblers have vanished from most traditional alder swamp sites surrounded by forest for some other unknown reason, as Blue-winged Warblers are absent there. The season's 5 Lawrence's and 2 Brewster's Warbler reports were all well n. and w. in New York in what is now the zone of hybridization (WW, JF, Dan Watkins et al.). Around Buffalo, as many Lawrence's Warblers were reported as Golden-winged (2).

A Northern Parula nest in *Dutchess*, NY 24 Jun (Barbara Butler et al.), a first for the county, was located in the curious empty space between this species's n. and s. ranges. The New Jersey Bird Records Committee is studying the report of a possible **Sutton's Warbler** (Northern Parula x Yellow-throated Warbler) at Sandyston, late May—early Jun

SA The Cerulean Warbler atlas, based on 1997-2000 field work, has now been completed (see <<http://www.birds.cornell.edu/cewap>>). New York is a major state for this declining and vulnerable species, with 1086 singing males censused in a curiously discontinuous and fragmented range encompassing two quite different types of mature forest: the traditional bottomlands, and apparently more recently colonized ridge tops. The biggest concentrations are in the Montezuma (500) and Iroquois-Oak Orchard-Tonawanda (150) bottomlands and the ridgetops of Allegany S. P. (165), plus smaller populations at Salmon Creek, near Ithaca, the Genesee R. gorge at Letchworth S. P., and down the Hudson at Bear Mt. S. P. A tiny outlier population inhabits e. Long Island. New Jersey Ceruleans are heavily concentrated in the nw. highlands and the Delaware Water Gap, along with adjacent Pennsylvania, plus a small outlier at Bull's I., *Hunterdon*. They are limited in Delaware to White Clay Creek in Newark along with adjacent riparian habitat upstream into Pennsylvania (*vide* Ken Rosenberg).

(Tom Sudol). Preliminary review indicates a hybrid, one of whose parents was clearly a parula; but there is some possibility that the other parent was a Magnolia Warbler.

Summer Tanagers feeding young at a nest in Brookhaven, *Suffolk*, L.I. in early Jul (Jim Clinton et al., ph. Mike Cooper) helped clinch this species as a New York state breeder. They almost certainly bred near the same location in 1990. No breeding pairs could be discovered in the Pine Barrens of *Burlington*, NJ, however, where Summer Tanagers were expanding in the 1980s and 1990s (TBa). Clay-colored Sparrows are spreading eastward toward L. Champlain from the areas colonized in w. New York since 1971. In addition to several in Yorkshire, *Cattaraugus* 1 & 6 Jun (Dave Harris, Brendan Klick), and in a familiar area in Andover, *Allegany*, through Jun (EBr), up to 3 singing males were at Cumberland Head (BK) and another at Churusco (Judy and Roger Heinz), both *Clinton* and a pair bred for the 2nd year near Cherry Valley, *Otsego* (HK). Grasshopper Sparrows could be abundant in just the right kind of old-field succession, as shown by a count of 192 at Lakehurst 16 Jul (FV). No

Henslow's Sparrows could be found in ne. Pennsylvania (WR), but one site at Lancaster, *Erie*, NY (MM, Mark Kandel) contained 15 birds, the most since 1967. This concentration may result from development of nearby areas, however. Single singing Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows at Rye, *Westchester*, NY 5 Jun (TWB) and at Savannah, *Wayne*, NY 7 Jun (KF) were normal late migrants, while a singing bird 30 Jul—1 Aug on L. Champlain at the Chazy R. mouths, *Clinton*, NY (ph. BK, CM, Nancy Olsen) was suggestive of attempted breeding, as this recently split species's nearest known nesting areas are not very far away on the St. Lawrence R. (JMCP).

Two confirmed breeding pairs of Blue Grosbeaks plus two probable pairs and another individual were unprecedented numbers on e. Long Island (JF, Bob McGrath et al.), but they do not seem to be expanding in e. Pennsylvania (AM). Dickcissels keep trying to breed here. Up to 5 at Middle Creek W.M.A., *Lancaster/Lebanon*, PA were almost certainly nesting, and a nest was found in *Northumberland*. A singing male was a one-day wonder at Cape May 4 Jun (RC). They occupied two sites in Delaware: near Primehook N.W.R., *Sussex*, and s. of Harrington, *Kent*. A female was seen carrying food at the latter site in mid-Jul, but both fields were mowed.

EXOTICS

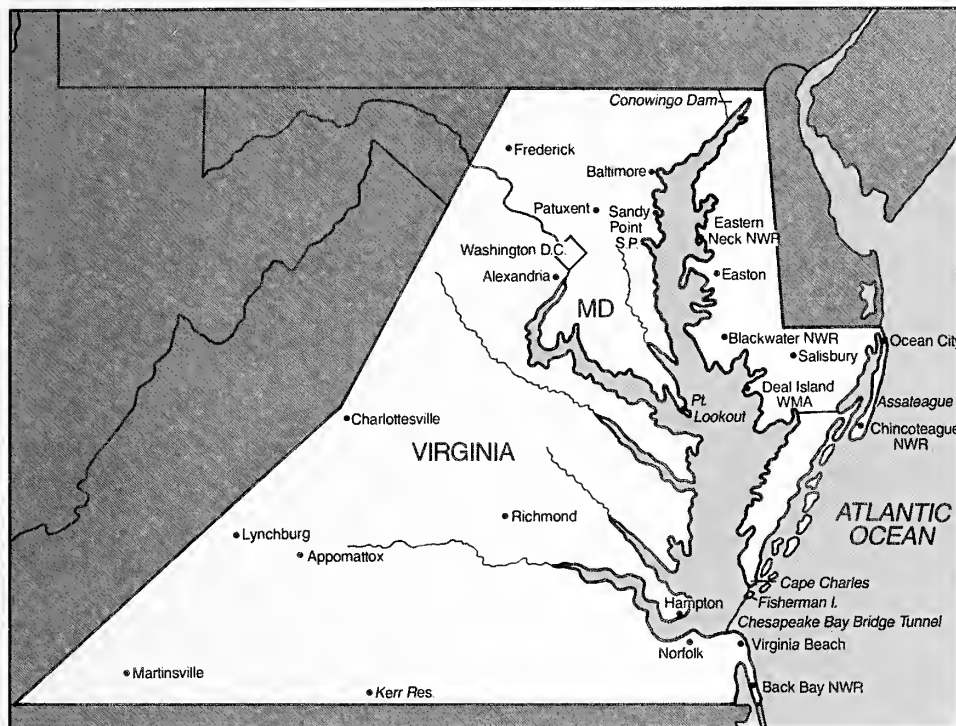
A **Ruddy Shelduck** at Bombay Hook 8 Jun (MI) and up to 7 at Cape May at the end of Jul were almost certainly escapees, though a decades-long pattern of summer appearances bears watching. A European Greenfinch at Bombay Hook 17-18 Jun (Ray Wilson et al.) was almost certainly assisted or escaped. The same applies to a Common Myna at Cape Henlopen 14 Jun, seen a little farther n. the next day.

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Middle Atlantic Coast



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We have had some droughts in recent summers, but this year put them all to shame. It was reported as the driest year in Virginia since record-keeping began in 1885 and the second driest since 1885 in Maryland. From late May through July, there was essentially no appreciable rainfall in the Region; most of what rain did fall came in early June. The dry spell, essentially the extension of (minimally) a three-year drought, coincided with a major heat wave that assaulted the Region for much of the summer. One period in late July recorded more than 18 days of 90°+ days in Maryland (ELP). Regional gardens were tinder dry by the end of July, crops failed throughout the Region, and wells that had not gone dry in 70 or more years dried up, with the very worst conditions being in the Piedmont. Similar conditions continued well into August. How this all affected birdlife was not necessarily clear, and few observers commented on potential effects on widespread species.

One pattern suggested in this column with regard to the summer of 1999 (*N. A. B.* 53: 371-372) may have shown itself again this year. In 1999, it seemed that dry conditions throughout the Northeast precipitated a mid-summer movement of dispersing (failed?) breeders from the Appalachians and northern states. I surmised that the extreme drought conditions that year led to lowered reproductive success and drove those species to disperse away from their dessicated breeding areas. Species that may have been linked in that year included White-throated Sparrow, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Magnolia Warbler, Henslow's Sparrow, Slate-colored Junco, and Bobolink. This year the pattern was not as strong, but there were some odd records, including, among others, Merlin, Myrtle and Black-throated Blue Warblers, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Savannah Sparrow, and Bobolink. Could this have been the same phenomenon, or do some members from this group of birds stray to the Region every summer?

Rarity highlights include the first Regional summering of Pacific Loon, an American White Pelican in Maryland, a White-faced

Ibis in Virginia, a small White Ibis movement, summering Black Rails in the Piedmont, more Eurasian Collared-Dove news, two species of vagrant kingbirds, and interesting breeding records of Double-crested Cormorant and Blue-headed Vireo. Many thanks to Todd M. Day and to James L. Stasz, who compiled records from Virginia and Maryland and provided much insight into distributional questions this season.

Important note: This region's name will change, with Volume 57, to "Middle Atlantic region," and will include all of the states of Maryland and Virginia, as well as D.C. beginning with August through November 2002. I'll look forward to including material from the mountains and valleys of these states in future reports!

Abbreviations: Assat. (Assateague Island, Worcester, MD); Bay (Chesapeake Bay); Chinc. (Chincoteague N.W.R., Accomack, VA); D.C. (District of Columbia); Dulles Wetlands (Dulles Greenways Wetlands Mitigation Project, Loudoun, VA); p. a. (pending acceptance by state records committee); P.R.N.A.S. (Patuxent River Naval Air Station, Saint Mary's, MD); U. M. C. F. (University of Maryland Central Farm, Howard, MD). All locations can be assumed to be in Maryland except that each Virginia location is noted as such the *first time* it is mentioned in the text.

LOONS THROUGH WATERFOWL

Amazingly, the first-summer **Pacific Loon** (p. a.) at Clopper L., *Montgomery* continued through the summer for the first Regional oversummering. Two Common Loons also at Clopper L. dropped to one after 8 Jun, but the remaining bird continued through the season. An ad. Pied-billed Grebe with 3 chicks at Hog Island W.M.A., *Surry*, VA provided an interesting breeding record 14 Jul (BT); there are few known breeding stations in the state, and all are irregular. A 4 Jun pelagic trip from Virginia Beach produced 6 Greater, 45 Cory's, one Manx and 2 Sooty Shearwaters, 550+ Wilson's, 45 Leach's, and one **Band-rumped Storm-Petrel** (ESB, TMD et al.). The Band-rumped represents the earliest Regional record and 7th for Virginia, while the count of 45 Leach's is a good total for Virginia. Although Band-rumped has been found just 10 times in the Region (one record from Maryland and two from D.C., both of the latter compliments of the same Aug 1893 hurri-

cane), it is presumed to be regular in the waters off southernmost Virginia Jun to early Aug, during warm-water episodes. Seawater temperatures were 67-68° F on that day, but the Band-rumped was in warmer 72-73° F water. A powerful filament of Gulf Stream water, up to 84° F in temperature (nearly unprecedented in spring), had been present in the last few days of May and first two days of Jun between the Baltimore and the Norfolk Canyons—this rare warm-water event is surely connected to the Band-rumped's early arrival. Typically, the first Band-rumped do arrive in North Carolina waters in the last week of May.

An American White Pelican at P.R.N.A.S. 26 Jun (K. Rambo) was a first for that location and the 3rd reported in *Saint Mary's*. This species has been annual in Maryland in recent years. Brown Pelicans strayed inland to *Charles* beginning with a sighting from Cobb I. 2 Jun, one 10 Jun on the Patuxent R. at the MD-231 bridge (T. Harten), and sightings over the Potomac R., including 3 seen 11 Jun (M. Callahan) and 10 seen 12 Jun (GMJ, GB), both off of Pope's Cr., 2 flying downriver at Cobb I. 18 Jun (JLS), and one subad. at Morgantown 16 Jul (JLS, MH). *Charles* had only one prior report, on 23 Nov 1999 (*N. A. B.* 54: 36), though their appearance here had been expected given their explosion in the Bay. Brown Pelican colonies this year numbered about 1000 at South Marsh Pt., *Accomack*, VA, 260 on Spring I., *Dorchester*, and 51 at a marshy tump just off Barren I., *Dorchester* (HTA). This latter colony had nest platforms last year but no egg-laying; this year at least 11 chicks were banded here (*vide* HTA). Double-crested Cormorants continue to expand their breeding range in the Region. Stasz and Hafner counted 34 nests on two large power pole bases at Chalk Pt. 16 Jun (JLS, MH); since one pole was in *Prince George's* and the other in *Calvert*, this provides new nesting records for both those counties and only the 2nd Western Shore nesting for the species. Anhingas seen 29 Jun (TMD et al.) in s. Virginia included 3 at Taylor's Millpond, *Greensville*, and one off Rte. 662, 5 km s. of Rte. 615, *Southampton*. Virginia does not yet have a confirmed breeding record, though observations in this area, and the species's regular occurrence at Stumpy L., do strongly suggest that it breeds. Finding a nest would make a good project for s. Virginia's birders!

An ad. Little Blue Heron at L. Elkhorn, *Howard* 1 Jun (S. Neri, K. Schwartz) was outside the early spring/late summer pattern of most inland records, while a Tricolored

Heron at Rigby's Folly, *Talbot* 13 Jul was locally rare (HTA). A Snowy Egret at Hunting Cr., *Fairfax*, VA 1 Jul (KG) was close to D.C., where uncommon. A Yellow-crowned Night-Heron at the Fran Uhler Natural Area, *Prince George's* was locally rare 28 Jun (FS). The **White-faced Ibis** (p. a.) reported last season at Chinc. was last seen 5 Jun (J. Hugus). A small White Ibis movement was evidenced by single imm. at Riley's Lock, *Montgomery* 26 Jun (David Young), Manassas Battlefield, 28 Jun—2 Jul (LC, TMD), and Black Hills Res., *Montgomery* 6-28 Jul (T. Dunne, ph., m. ob.). A Glossy Ibis at Huntley Meadows 10-15 Jun (F.D. Bogar, v. o.) was out of place.

A large gathering of 425 Mute Swans at Pone I., *Dorchester* 1 Jun (HTA) contained 2 escapee Black Swans, possibly those that frequented Smith I. several years back. An

American Black Duck hen on a nest with six eggs was on a small island in a gut w. of the n. end of Cedar I., *Accomack*, VA 29 May (ESB). Noteworthy lingering ducks included an American Wigeon in *Orange*, VA 23 Jun (SCR), a Green-winged Teal and 2 Lesser Scaup at Hart 6 Jul (DBY), a Canvasback at Dyke Marsh 2 Jun (KG) and a male in *Howard* at least 7-15 Jul (J. Friedwoffer, JS), Ring-necked Ducks at Dyke Marsh/Belle Haven, *Fairfax*, VA, through the period, 2 in *Fauquier*, VA 22 Jun (M. Orsie) and 13 Jul (TMD et al.), and a female at Piney Run, *Carroll* 21 Jul (JLS, MH), along with a male Hooded Merganser, a Surf Scoter at Leadham Cr., *Talbot* 3 Jul (A. Bourque), and a Red-breasted Merganser at Dyke Marsh 14 Jun (KG). Other Hooded Mergansers were seen several times through the season at Dyke

SA Always enigmatic, Black Rail has been found inland (away from Tidewater) only about three times in Maryland and eight times in Virginia. Previous inland records in Virginia include five in the western Mountain & Valleys region, including apparent migrants, wintering birds, and summering birds (Kain, T., ed. 1987. *Virginia's Birdlife: an annotated checklist*. Virginia Society of Ornithology) and four in the Piedmont, including one at Sweet Briar 14 Oct 1977 (Kain 1987), one at Staunton River S.P. 3-20 Oct 1998, and singles calling at Dulles Wetlands 11 Jul—2 Aug 1997 and 28 Jul—5 Aug 2001. This year, a calling **Black Rail** was heard and seen (!) regularly during daylight hours at Huntley Meadows, *Fairfax*, VA 10 Jun—13 Jul (p. a. KG, m. ob.), where it established a first for this frequently-visited park and the county. Its appearance may have been due in part to the drought, which created some of the lowest water conditions ever at Huntley Meadows, allowing extensive growth of low 20-40 cm grasses and forbs that this individual preferred.

Prompted perhaps by this record and last year's individual at Dulles Wetlands, Day and Heath used tapes to survey two other inland wetlands 17-18 Jun. On 17 Jun, Dulles Wetlands produced just 3 Virginia Rails, but on 18 Jun a Black Rail (p. a.) responded to tape at the North Fork Wetlands Bank, *Prince William*, VA. It was heard again at the same location 24 Jun (TMD, AM). There shouldn't be any doubt that Black Rail is more regular throughout the Region than we realize. This year's records should demonstrate to observers that tape surveys of even the most obscure, little inland marsh or pond edge can be worthwhile. Populations of Black Rail in Colorado, Baja California, the Sierra foothills of California, and elsewhere throughout the country have only recently been discovered, and there is no reason to believe that the otherwise well-covered East Coast regions are any different.

On the other hand, multiple surveys in traditionally productive marshlands in nw. *Accomack*, VA through late spring and early summer produced *zero* Black Rails, for the first time in almost three decades (D. J. Schwab; TMD, ESB; B. Watts). Drought might also have been a factor here, but the decline at Saxis, the most accessible site that has held numbers of Black Rails (up to 25) in past decades, has been apparent for almost 10 years. As at various Maryland Eastern Shore sites, this decline is not readily explainable; some attribute the Maryland losses to the erection of Barn Owl nest boxes in the middle of the rails' preferred marshes (as at Elliott I.), but no such program has been undertaken in nw. *Accomack*. A rigorous survey of the area is much needed, as other local nesters here have shown declines in recent decades: Henslow's Sparrow (now absent), Sedge Wren (absent), Common Moorhen (absent), Least Bittern (extremely scarce), and Marsh Wren (apparently reduced in number). Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow appears to be maintaining its numbers here, as do Seaside Sparrow, Virginia Rail, and Clapper Rail. These are the collective impressions of birders active in this area over the past three decades.

Marsh (KG, v. o.). A King Eider at Chinc. 19-21 Jun (J. Via, B. Akers, S. Rice) provided one of the few summer records for the Region.

RAPTORS THROUGH CUCKOOS

A **Swallow-tailed Kite** at Marriott Ranch, VA, was long-staying (one of the only such records in the Region) 29 Jul—11 Aug (Shannon Cate, ph. TMD, m. ob.) and a first for *Fauquier*. A total of **12-18** Mississippi Kites in *Greensville*, *Southampton*, and the city of Emporia 29 Jun (TMD et al.) further improved on a count from a similar trip 27 May. Other Regional sightings of the expanding Mississippi Kite included singles sporadically through the summer at Huntley Meadows (v. o.), one at Haymarket, *Prince William*, VA 8 Jun (A. Rabin), and one at Saint Mary's City, *Saint Mary's* 7 Jul (E. Willoughby). A female Northern Harrier near Rapidan, *Culpeper*, VA 5 Jul (TMD) and 2 in *Culpeper* 8 Jul (K. Heatwole) match a pattern of other mid-summer Piedmont records from the Region; it is not known how often these birds represent local breeders versus wandering or oversummering birds. A Sharp-shinned Hawk was at Swan Pt., *Charles* 16 Jul (JLS, MH). An ad. Broad-winged Hawk at Number 10 School Rd., *Kent* 20 Jul (JLS) was probably a local breeder. The Peregrine Falcon pair at the Solomon's Bridge, *Calvert* successfully fledged young this year, seen 25 Jul (T. Bell). Researchers using radio-tagging with young Peregrines in e. Virginia learned that a very high percentage of the young birds were being depredated by Great Horned Owls this year, which has been true in Maryland and may have been true in some earlier seasons as well (*vide* M. A. Byrd). Rare so far into the summer season, a Merlin at Cape Charles, *Northampton*, VA 11 Jun (ESB) was over three weeks past what is considered an average "late date." The only other Regional reports for the summer season both hail from Maryland in 1998, with reports from 3 Jun and 31 Jul (N. A. B. 52: 443), presumably extremely late and early migrants, respectively.

A Ruffed Grouse at G. Richard Thompson W.M.A., *Fauquier*, VA 13 Jul (KG) was at the very e. edge of its range and is a species very rarely reported in the Region, though it is resident along the Regional boundary. At least one Sora continued at U.M.C.F. through 1 Jun (BO, EH), perhaps suggesting a breeding attempt. The 14 American Coots at Havre de Grace, *Harford* 9 Jun (JLS, MH) represented a high count of summering birds; one remained 20 Jul (JLS). Two coots were at Dyke Marsh/Belle Haven at least 1-16 Jun (PS, KG); another seen at L. Elkhorn, *Howard*

12 (S. Neri) & 17 Jul (J. Coskren) was not believed to have summered, but this would represent an odd date for an arriving bird.

An American Avocet at Huntley Meadows 30 Jun (Matt Orsie, RH, LS) and one at L. Needwood, *Montgomery* 21 Jul (T. Marko, ph. DC, v. o.) were both at unusual locations. An ad. Spotted Sandpiper with 3 downy young in *Loudoun*, VA 1 Jul (SCR) provided a rare breeding record. A molting ad. Curlew Sandpiper at Chinc. 28-31 Jul+ (Linda Millington, Sherif & Mindy Bara El-Din et al.) was a Regional rarity but one that has been found at this location at least 31 times since 1956, on two occasions involving 2 birds. Curlew Sandpipers have been recorded nearly annually here 1978 to the present, with records lacking only from 1989, 1991, 1994, 1995, 1997, and 1999 (and in three of those years, the species was seen at Craney I.). Could many of these records, spring and fall, pertain to the same individual?

Upland Sandpipers continued at Remington, *Fauquier*, VA through the season, with young observed 14 Jul (TMD); the peak of 8 on 19 Jul (KG) may have been supplemented by migrants. Two Willets and 7 Sanderlings 2 Jun (KG) at Dyke Marsh, *Fairfax*, VA, were both unusual so close to D.C. and late for migrants; it would be interesting to know to which subspecies the Willets pertained (almost certainly *inornatus*). A White-rumped Sandpiper at Batna, *Fauquier*, VA 16 Jun (TMD) was a spring migrant and unusual for the Virginia Piedmont. Four Stilt Sandpipers at North Beach 24 Jul (JLS) and 4 ads. at Chinc. and 25 ads. at Craney I. 31 Jul+ (ESB, TMD et al.) were the only ones reported. A Short-billed Dowitcher arrived at Hunting Cr. 13 Jul (JL).

An ad. Pomarine Jaeger was seen on the 4 Jun pelagic from Rudee Inlet. Also seen was a small, unidentified jaeger (probably Long-tailed; TMD, ESB), while a subad. Long-tailed Jaeger—which has only three documented Maryland records—was seen in Maryland waters off Ocean City the same day (p. a., K. Fehskens). Four Lesser Black-backed Gulls were noted at Hart 6 Jul (DBY), and 7 were along the beach at Back Bay N.W.R. 7 Jun (AM). These midsummer birds are commonly found only at these two locations, and most tend to be subad. birds. The **Kelp Gull** continued through the season at Sandgates, *Saint Mary's*. Two Sandwich Terns at Skimmer I., *Worcester* 2 Jun (SA, JD) constituted one of the earlier state records. Two there 14 Jul (HH) may have represented the same birds, though a 22 Jul visit by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (*vide* HTA)

detected no evidence of nesting; the species did nest here in 1994 and 1997. Totals of banded chicks at three major Regional Royal Tern colonies included 684 at Skimmer I., 1600+ (and 6 Sandwich Tern chicks) at Fisherman I., *Northampton*, VA, and 974 in the Bay at Little Fox I., *Accomack*, VA, all close to the average numbers for recent years at these sites. A count of 140 Caspian Terns at Hart 6 Jul (DBY) was typical there, but the species is rarely found in the summer elsewhere in the Region, so 3 at Schoolhouse Pond, *Prince George's*, were unseasonal 10 Jun (JLS). Nesting Black Skimmers in the Bay included a few pairs at Little Fox I., *Accomack*, VA (HTA).

Bob Willman reports that Maryland's first **Eurasian Collared-Dove**, first reported in mid-Apr, lingered at his Port Deposit, *Cecil* feeders through at least mid-Jun—this area should be watched closely to see if a stable population forms. The Eurasian Collared-Doves in *Northampton*, VA, seem to be beginning to do just that. The fledgling seen with the 2 ads. 1 Jun (BT) confirms successful breeding. A Monk Parakeet was at Elkton, *Cecil* 29 Jun—2 Jul (G. Griffith). A Black-billed Cuckoo at Bethel W.M.A., *Cecil* (JLS), and another at Bowie, *Prince George's* (F. Fallon), both 13 Jul, were on the Coastal Plain, where breeders are extremely scarce. A team of biologists from The Nature Conservancy, The Center for Conservation Biology, and The U.S.F.W.S. transported 8 Red-cockaded Woodpeckers from South Carolina to the Conservancy's Piney Grove Preserve near Wakefield, VA. This release brings the state population back over the 20-mark. (D. J. Schwab et al.).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH BLACKBIRDS

An Olive-sided Flycatcher at Centreville, *Queen Anne's* 2 Jun (S. Crabtree) was rare for the Eastern Shore. A briefly-described **Gray Kingbird** n. of E.S.V.N.W.R. along Rte 600 on 2 Jun (†CB) would provide Virginia's 14th record and just the 3rd in the spring. Maryland's lost **Western Kingbird** remained at Ft. McHenry, Baltimore City, through 21 Jun (J. Peters), following the failed breeding attempt mentioned in last season's report.

Two Blue-headed Vireos nest-building at Soldier's Delight, *Baltimore* 9 Jun (KEC) provided the first nest record away from w. Maryland counties of *Washington*, *Allegany*, and *Garrett*. Blue-headed Vireos have been found here for the past two years. Although Soldier's Delight provides a unique habitat (Serpentine barrens with extensive stands of Virginia Pine [*Pinus virginianus*]), it has tra-

ditionally been more alluring to s. species, such as Chuck-will's-widow and Summer Tanager, than birds of boreal affiliation such as Blue-headed Vireo, although a recent Sharp-shinned Hawk nest record from there may suggest otherwise. This is an area that may deserve more thorough ornithological exploration. Blue-headed Vireos also apparently bred at Thompson W.M.A., Fauquier, VA, where a fledgling was seen 15 Jun (JL). Virginia Loggerhead Shrikes, all presumed breeders, were found in Fauquier, Loudoun, Middlesex, Spotsylvania, and Pulaski. After last summer's discovery of nesting Cliff Swallows on the bridge over the Nanticoke R. at Sharptown, Dorchester/Wicomico, Breeding Bird Atlas work this year discovered another Eastern Shore nesting location. In late Jun, Wierenga and Davidson discovered 2-3 breeding pairs under a bridge at Brookview, Dorchester. Visits to Sharptown confirmed breeding there as well; Stasz estimated two active nests and seven apparently inactive nests 6 Jul. A Veery at Prince William Forest Park, Prince William, VA made for an interesting record of a probable breeder 11 Jun (KG). A Swainson's Thrush in Loudoun, VA 8 Jun (JL) was the latest spring migrant reported this season. A Cedar Waxwing pair observed nest-building at Kiptopeke S.P. 8-9 Jun (Joyce & Hayes Williams), and monitored later by Brinkley, provided a rare nest record for Northampton, VA. This species is a rare nester on the s. Coastal Plain but has been increasing as a breeder Regionally.

A Myrtle Warbler banded 25 Jun (PC) at P.R.N.A.S. was totally outside either migration period and is hard to explain. Maryland has a handful of Myrtle Warbler records in this period, including one at Elliott I. 31 Jul 2000 (*N. A. B.* 54: 370), and an old breeding record from the Bay shore at Havre de Grace, Harford in Jun 1879 (Kumlien, L. 1880. *The Yellow-rumped Warbler [Dendroica coronata] breeding in eastern Maryland. Bulletin of the Nuttall Ornithological Club* 5: 182-183). The latter represents the only Regional breeding record. As unlikely as it may seem, observers should not rule out the possibility of Regional breeding by this species. A singing male Black-throated Blue Warbler seen at Temple Hall Regional Farm Park, Loudoun, VA 22 Jun (M. A. Good) was hard to place, being too late for a spring migrant and too early for a fall migrant. The Southampton Swainson's Warbler reported in the spring season was still territorial 29 Jun (TMD et al.).

Vesper Sparrows nest regularly on Maryland's Upper Eastern Shore, but they are

rarely detected as breeders on Maryland's Lower Eastern Shore. Thus, one singing at Mason-Dixon Rd., Wicomico 7 & 13 Jul (E. Lawler) was noteworthy. The last White-throated Sparrow of the season was quite late at Meadowbrook, Howard 2 Jun (J. Tveeknem). A singing Swamp Sparrow at Dyke Marsh 14 Jul (KG) was at a location where breeding has been suspected in the past and almost certainly represented the coastal mid-Atlantic subspecies *nigrescens*. One at North Fork Wetlands Bank 17 Jul (TMD) was much more unusual in the cen. Piedmont of Virginia and may have more probably pertained to the inland-breeding subspecies *georgiana*. A Swamp Sparrow at U.M.C.F. 17 Jun (BO, EH, JS) likely pertained to *georgiana* and would be a rare breeder for this area. Future summer records from inland areas in the Region should be looked at very carefully, as this is the potential zone of contact between these two subspecies. A Savannah Sparrow at U.M.C.F. was an anomaly 17 Jun (BO, EH, JS); this species has not bred this far e. and is not much known for midsummer wanderings, though lingerers into early Jun are routine on the coast. Dogged persistence in s. *Brunswick* eventually produced one singing Bachman's Sparrow 29 Jun (CMS, TMD et al.), seen again 1 Jul (AM). An extremely small population of this species persists in the southernmost counties of cen. Virginia, though an apparently more stable population occurs on Fort Pickett, Brunswick, VA, which is closed to public access.

Northern Cardinal rarely draws comment in this column, but one seen 1 Jun (HTA) at Holland I., Dorchester was very unusual for a central Bay island according to Armistead, who has made dozens of trips to these islands. A Rose-breasted Grosbeak feeding in a mulberry in Queenstown, Queen Anne's 26 Jun (DP) was well away from its montane and northerly breeding grounds. Dickcissels this year were found in Maryland at one location in Carroll and at Chino Farms, Queen Anne's, where they have nested the past few years. In Culpeper, VA, colonies of 3 and 10 were found at two locations 16 Jun (TMD) and 4 Jul (TMD), respectively, while in Fauquier, VA, Gaskill found 5 at two locations 15 Jul. Dickcissels have been thought to occur as breeders in the East primarily in drought years and sometimes occur in significant invasions. The regularity with which this species has been found in these areas (and a few other areas) in recent years makes it unclear to what extent these Dickcissels are invaders versus members of stable but shift-

ing summer populations in these areas. A color-banded male Dickcissel returning for its 3rd consecutive breeding season at Chino Farms (*vide* MH) lends support to the latter theory. Breeding Bobolinks in the Region are most regularly found in Carroll, but this species is constantly racing against mowing schedules to rear young before fields are hayed. Single males at Keysville Rd. 15-22 Jun (P. Webb, JLS, MH) and Bullfrog Rd. 22 Jun (JLS, MH) were notable. Mid-Jun Bobolinks were presumed to be late migrants at McKee-Beshers W.M.A., Montgomery 11 Jun (P. Woodward), Huntley Meadows 14 Jun (MJI), and U.M.C.F. 17 Jun (BO, EH, JS).

CORRIGENDA

In *N. A. B.* 56 (1), note the following errors, pointed out by Mark Hoffman. Delete reference to Northern Gannets seen at Assateague, MD, and note that the flyover Summer Tanager at Assateague 15 Aug was in fact a record-early Dickcissel.

ADDENDUM

The following was inadvertently omitted from *N. A. B.* 56 (2): A *Myiarchus* flycatcher, initially reported as a Great Crested, was found at Chesapeake Farms on the Kent County (Maryland) Christmas Bird Count 16 Dec. Not surprisingly, it proved to be an **Ash-throated Flycatcher** when relocated and photographed 18 Dec by J. Tardiff and Jim Gruber. Diagnostic calls were heard and described by Gruber, and the bird lingered to at least late Dec.

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Southern Atlantic Coast



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This summer's weather continued the drought, mostly in the central and western parts of the Region. Some rains in July slowed it down somewhat but did little to start reversing the trend of below-normal rainfall that is in its fourth year. Temperatures for the most part were about average, but some areas experienced several periods of hotter-than-normal weather. The birds, thanks to the dry, warm weather, experienced a relatively successful breeding season. There were no reports of any nesting failures, and several species seemed to be present in good numbers with many young. In the rare bird department, North Carolina got its first documented White-faced Ibis, on the heels of last season's bird in Georgia.

Starting with the next issue of *North American Birds* (fall migration 2002), this Region will be known as the Southern Atlantic region and will encompass all of the states of North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia.

Abbreviations: B.R.C. (Bird Records Committee); C. Hatt. (Cape Hatteras, NC); E.L.H. (E. L. Huie Land Application Facility, Clayton, GA); H.B.S.P. (Huntington Beach State Park, SC); K. Mt. (Kennesaw Mt. National Battlefield Park, GA); P.I. (Pea I. N.W.R., Dare, NC); S.S.S. (Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper, SC).

GREBES THROUGH WATERFOWL

Nesting Pied-billed Grebes are quite local in the Region; thus of note was a pair with 2 young at Phinizy Swamp, Augusta, GA 4 Jul (AW). Only one Herald Petrel was found this period, that being off Hatteras, NC 2 Jun (BP et al.); there were no public pelagic trips scheduled in Jul this year. The only shearwaters of note were 2 Manx off Hatteras, NC 1 & 9 Jun (BP et al.). Tropicbirds made news, however, with both species being found. White-tailed reports included one off St. Catherines I., GA 24 Jun (JFI et al.), and singles on six different trips off Hatteras, NC during Jun and Jul (BP). Patteson also found the rare **Red-billed Tropicbird** twice off Hatteras, with an imm. 29 Jun and an ad. 13 Jul. The rare Masked Booby was found off Hatteras 9 Jun (BP et al.), providing the first summer report in a while for that state. An

imm. **Brown Booby** was picked up on the beach at Emerald Isle, NC 30 Jul (*vide* JF). The bird, apparently sick, was taken to a local wildlife shelter, where it died the next day. The bird, to be deposited in the N. C. Museum of Natural History, constitutes the first specimen record for the state. The Bear I., Colleton, SC area continued to host a substantial flock of American White Pelicans, with 60+ there 29 Jun (RC, CE); and the imm. Brown Pelican continued to be present at the W. F. George L., GA dam area throughout the summer (WC). This summer's Magnificent Frigatebirds included one at Winyah Bay, Georgetown, SC 27 Jun (*vide* JP), one at Litchfield Beach, SC 3 Jul (BM), and one at P.I. 3 Jul (R&SB et al.).

Reddish Egrets were found in all three states, with the highest counts being 8 on Bulls I., SC 22 Jul (PN) and 6 on the Portsmouth I., NC flats 21 Jul (WI et al.), a state high count for a single site. Some of the more interesting inland long-legged wader reports included a locally rare imm. Black-crowned Night-Heron in n. Greene, GA 4 Jul (PS), a Glossy Ibis at Phinizy Swamp, GA 10 & 27 Jul (JK, PC), a Roseate Spoonbill along the Altamaha R., Long, GA for most of the summer (*vide* GB), a Wood Stork at Norfleet, Halifax, NC 14 Jul (RD), and 2 Wood Storks at the New Hope Creek arm of Jordan L., NC 21 (RD) to 28 Jul (RP et al.). North Carolina got its first documented **White-faced Ibis** when one was found in a roadside ditch in s. Nags Head 28 Jun (MJ, *vide* PM; m. ob.). The bird remained there until at least 13 Jul (JR) and was last seen at nearby P.I. 20 Jul (*vide* PM). The bird, an alternate-plumaged adult, was seen by many; and photographs should place it on the official state list.

There have been an increasing number of Black-bellied Whistling-Duck reports from Georgia and South Carolina in recent seasons. Are these naturally wandering birds from Florida? This summer a flock 22 was present at a pond near McClellanville, SC 5 Jun (*vide* DF) for only one day! It is certainly possible that a flock of this size was naturally occurring, and a flock was seen to our north in Virginia later in summer. Other waterfowl news included lingering or summering birds, with the most unusual being a Tundra Swan again all summer at P.I. (m. ob.), a Lesser Scaup near Augusta, GA 13-15 Jun (*vide* JS), and a Red-breasted Merganser at Oregon Inlet, NC 4 Jul (R&PT). Also a count of 58+ Ruddy Ducks at the Jacksonville W.T.P. near Richlands, NC 1 Jul (NM, J&LO) was an excellent total for that location in summer.

KITES THROUGH TERNS

The biggest Swallow-tailed Kite flock reported was of 80 near Jessup, GA 22 Jul (EW) and the farthest out-of-range birds included 2 near Anderson, SC 27 Jul (SP) and 2 near Winder, GA 30 Jul (*fide* EW). Nesting Mississippi Kites were once again found at several established North Carolina locations, but no new areas were reported. Rare summer hawk reports included a lingering Northern Harrier near Farmington, Oconee, GA 11 Jun (EW), a Sharp-shinned Hawk near Chapel Hill, NC 23 Jun (HM), a Broad-winged Hawk near Pearson, *Atkinson*, GA 30 Jun (JFI, EH), and a pair of American Kestrels at Oxbow Meadows, Columbus, GA 25 Jun (WC). Rails are notoriously hard to see, Black Rail especially so. Thus of note, a very rare sighting of 4 ads. and 3 young was had at North River, *Carteret*, NC 29 Jun (BC). Also 2 Soras at the Altamaha W.M.A., GA 19 Jun (BD) makes one wonder if they were something other than extraordinarily early migrants!

Some encouraging plover counts involved 50 Wilson's on Shackleford Banks, *Carteret*, NC 27 Jul (JF et al.) and 38 Pippings at Ocracoke, NC 22 Jul (WI, JL). With the drought conditions inland, several areas produced good shorebirds. All very rare inland, 2 American Avocets were at Jordan L., NC 22 Jul (MS), 6 Willets were at Legacy Sod, *Bartow*, GA 13 Jul (BZ et al.), and a Whimbrel was at the Orangeburg, SC sod farm 27 Jul (SCo). Extremely early was an Upland Sandpiper near Mayesville, SC 23 Jun (ED), as was a Marbled Godwit at H.B.S.P. 26 Jun (JP). Long-billed Curlews were at usual areas, with one on Ossabaw I., GA 23 Jul (BW) and 2 on Shackleford Banks, NC 4 & 27 Jul (NM et al.; JF et al.). Other out-of-season shorebirds included 4 White-rumped Sandpipers at the S.S.S. 18 Jun (SC) and a record-late Purple Sandpiper at Tybee I., GA 1 Jun (*fide* DC). Only two reports of Curlew Sandpiper were received, with singles at P.I. 3 (RD) & 20 Jul (JL, R&PT). A rare summer report for the Coastal Plain of American Woodcock was had near Honey Hill, *Berkeley*, SC 15 Jul (PN et al.). Only one Wilson's Phalarope was found, that being at the S.S.S. 10 Jul (SC).

Two South Polar Skuas off Hatteras, NC 2 Jun (BP et al.) were the only ones reported. Some interesting inland gull reports included up to 10 Laughings at West Point L., GA 15 Jun and 8 at L. Walter F. George, GA 8 Jun (WC), and an imm. Herring at L. Walter F. George, GA 13-14 Jul (WC, JFI, EH). Noteworthy summer Lesser Black-backed Gulls included 2 at Tybee I., GA 24 Jun (JFI et

al.) and 3 at C. Hatt. 31 Aug (J&PW). A count of 110 Gull-billed Terns at Davis Impoundment, *Carteret*, NC 28 Jul (JF et al.) was encouraging, as this species is currently declining over most of the area. Inland tern reports of note involved 11 Commons at L. Walter F. George, GA 7 Jul (WC), 8 Forster's at L. Walter F. George, GA 20 Jul (WC), and a Least at the Goldsboro, NC W.T.P. 3 Jul (HB). Rooftop nesting by Least Terns was observed again, with 90-110 birds on a building in Myrtle Beach, SC in mid-Jun (*fide* WCo) and 75+ on a building near New Bern, NC in Jun (WF); scores were nesting on strip-mall rooftops on Emerald I., *Carteret* and at Whalebone Jct., *Dare* in late May (ESB). Rare onshore Sooty Terns included 2 on the beach at C. Fear, Bald Head I., NC 25 Jul (GM) and one on the Ocracoke, NC flats 26 Jul (WI). Offshore, one was off Hatteras, NC 9 Jun (BP et al.), and one was a good find off Mt. Pleasant, SC 26 Jul (MH et al.). Black Terns reported included excellent early migrant counts of 56 at Harris Neck N.W.R., GA 23 Jun (JS) and 30 at the Altamaha W.M.A., GA 25 Jun (JFI, EH).

DOVES THROUGH WAXWINGS

White-winged Doves found included one at a feeder in Douglas, *Coffee*, GA 15-16 Jun (AB) and one at Harbor I., SC 29-30 Jun (JH). A Common Ground-Dove was flushed from a nest at Ohoopce Dunes Natural Area, *Emanuel*, GA 20 Jun (TS). The finding of a nest of this species in the Region is a very rare event indeed! Continuing a trend from the spring, a Black-billed Cuckoo was seen in s. *Craven*, NC 6 Jul (R&SB). Black-billed have been found in pocosin habitats during summer in this area before. Noteworthy nesting flycatcher news involved one ad. Willow Flycatcher with 2 young at L. Don T. Howell, *Cabarrus*, NC in late Jun (*fide* TP), providing the first local breeding record. The Scissor-tailed Flycatchers near Monroe, NC raised at least 3 young, for the 3rd year in a row (AO); Georgia singles were near Watkinsville 22 Jul (*fide* MF) and Lawrenceville 27 Jul (*fide* GS).

Horned Larks continued to make news along their e. breeding range in North Carolina. At a site in *Carteret*, where first found only a couple of years ago, an amazing count of 150, including many juv. birds, was had 21 Jul (JF). Swallows also extended their e. limit in that state, with several pairs of Tree Swallow being noted at Mackay I. N.W.R. 23 Jun (JL) and several Cliff Swallows nesting at Brice's Creek, New Bern 11 Jun (JF). In Georgia, the s. limit was extended by nesting Cliffs at Pataula Creek, L. Walter F. George,

noted 12 Jun (GB). Other locally rare summer birds included a pair of White-breasted Nuthatches near Watkinsville, GA all summer (PS) and a House Wren at Mayhaw W.M.A., *Miller*, GA 14 Jul (JFI, EH). The latter bird was very much out-of-range for the summer season in that state. Cedar Waxwings often remain in areas outside of their normal breeding range during the summer season. This year, they were widespread, with the most interesting reports being 2 unsuccessfully attempting to nest in Americus, *Sumter*, GA 10 Jun (*fide* CR), two pairs noted at Mackay I. N.W.R., NC 23 Jun (JL), and 2 courting in the Croatan N. F., NC 11 Jun (JF).

WARBLERS THROUGH CROSSBILLS

Several warblers were found as early or late migrants. Two Golden-wingeds at K. Mt. 29 Jul (TE) bested the early arrival date by 12 days! A Black-throated Blue at Tybee I., GA 5 Jun (DC) was quite late for that s. coastal locality. A Worm-eating netted at York, SC 9 Jul (BH) was considered an early migrant. And a Northern Waterthrush was early at Eufaula N.W.R., GA 13 Jul (WC). Two breeding-season reports of note included an Ovenbird at Ohoopce Dunes Natural Area, *Emanuel*, GA 18 Jun (TS) and two pairs of American Redstarts along Pataula Creek, L. Walter F. George, GA 12 Jun (GB). Both of these are considered rare in these areas in summer.

Very rare as a breeder and at the extreme edge of the normal breeding range, a singing Field Sparrow was a good find in *Lowndes*, GA 2 Jun (BB). A Savannah Sparrow at the Altamaha W.M.A., GA 12 Jun (EB) was extremely late for the species to be in the s. coastal area of the Region. Another locally unusual breeding season report was of the juv. Grasshopper Sparrow found near Otway, *Carteret*, NC 21 Jul (JF, JFe). Breeding in the county had not been previously detected. The sod farm in *Bartow*, GA had one singing male Dickcissel 20 Jul (MD), and 5 were there 28 Jul (BZ). Bobolinks seemed to be on the move a little early this season: there was one near Scotland Neck, NC 14 Jul (RD), a flock in *Jones*, NC 15 Jul (CB), 200 near Townville, SC 25 Jul (BM), and 2 at Shackleford Bank, *Carteret*, NC 27 Jul (JF et al.). The Gulf Coast race of Boat-tailed Grackle was found farther n. than usual when 6 (including 2 fledglings) were observed near Tifton, *Tift*, GA 30 Jun (JFI, EH). Another species that seemed to start its southward migration early was the Orchard Oriole. An impressive count of 30 was had on s. Jekyll I., GA 28 Jun (LT et al.). This species normally starts moving in mid-

Jul. A complete surprise was provided by the subad. male **White-winged Crossbill** present at a feeder in Tega Cay, L. Wylie, York, SC 6-8 Jun (LC; TP, v. o.). Interestingly, this bird was apparently present there for four days in late May as well.

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Florida



audiotape, videotape, or specimen evidence); R.A. (Restoration Area); S.R.A. (state recreation area).

LOONS THROUGH SPOONBILL

Single Common Loons were found at Honeymoon I. S.R.A. 21 Jun (KA et al.) and off Alligator Pt., *Franklin* 29 Jun (JM). Fifty-four Cory's Shearwaters and 18 Wilson's Storm-Petrels were found 40 km se. of Port Canaveral, *Brevard* 3 Jul (DG, WB et al.). A Greater Shearwater was retrieved from an air-conditioning duct at Jacksonville International Airport 22 Jun (PL). A Red-footed Booby was at Dry Tortugas N.P. 21 Jun–20 Jul (EH, JD, TD et al.). Single Northern Gannets were found off Alligator Pt., *Franklin* 16 Jun (JM) and at Ft. Myers Beach, *Lee* 24 Jul (WW, CE, WD), and likely the same individual was found incapacitated 26 Jul nearby at Sanibel I. Summering American White Pelicans were found at eight locations, with 770 at L. Apopka R.A., *Orange* 23 Jun (HR), particularly impressive. Brown Pelicans were found well inland at Mulberry, *Polk* 11 Jun (TP), L. Istokpoga, *Highlands* 14 Jun (MM), and *Polk* phosphate mines (PF). Unusual in summer was an American Bittern at Orlando Wetlands Park, *Orange* 7 Jun (TR). A good count of 20 Least Bitterns was made at L. Monroe Conservation Area, *Volusia* 8 Jun (LM). A "Great White Heron" was well n. of its typical range at Newnans L., *Alachua* 13 Jul (JH, MMA, HA). Also well n. of normal was a "Wurdemann's Heron" 20 Jun at L. Alfred, *Polk* (AP) and 7 Reddish Egrets at Huguenot Memorial Park, *Duval* 3 Jul (RC). A second-summer **White-faced Ibis** was at L. Apopka R.A. 12 Jun (HR). With all the addi-

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Rainfall in June and July was heavy, replenishing drought-diminished wetlands and possibly signaling an end to the persistent drought. The problem this summer was finding appropriate shorebird habitat due to too

much rain, a welcome change. In the Jacksonville area, beach nesters suffered from high tides aggravated by several northeasters. Of special note, Harry Robinson conducted his 400th survey at L. Apopka Restoration Area.

Abbreviations/definitions: C.P. (county park); report (any observation); record (only those reports verifiable from photograph,

tional water around, Roseate Spoonbills were reported more often inland, as well as in n. Florida, with reports from *Wakulla* and *Leon*.

WHISTLING-DUCKS THROUGH PLOVERS

Two Fulvous Whistling Ducks at Newnans L. 16–23 Jun (MMa, BS et al.) were n. of normal. Black-bellied Whistling Ducks continue to increase in the state, with reports from six counties away from their *Sarasota* stronghold. Fifty at Newnans L., *Alachua* 5 Jun (MMe) and two reports from *Leon* (MC, TE) were particularly noteworthy. A pair of Wood Ducks was found on Loop Road, *Monroe* 23 Jul (RD), perhaps the first summer report for *Monroe*. Two Blue-winged Teal were at L. Apopka R.A. 5 Jun (HR); 3 were at *Polk* phosphate mines 8 Jul (PF), and one was at *Viera*, *Brevard* 14 Jul (DS). Single Northern Shovelers were at *Polk* phosphate mines 16 Jun (PT, CG), St. Marks N.W.R. 1–25 Jun (JD), and L. Apopka R.A. 21–25 Jul (HR). A Ring-necked Duck was found at *Polk* phosphate mines 16 Jun (PT, CG). A Lesser Scaup was at L. Apopka R.A. to 10 Jul (HR), and 2 summered in *Pinellas* (*fide* RS). Two Redheads lingered at St. Marks N.W.R. until 20 Jun, with one remaining until 25 Jun (JD et al.), while another was found at New Port Richey, *Pasco* 12 Jul (KT). A female Hooded Merganser was at *Viera* 17 Jul (DS). Five Ruddy Ducks were at *Polk* phosphate mines 8 Jul (PF), while another was at *Viera* 21 Jul (DS).

Thirteen Swallow-tailed Kites were w. of Branford, *Lafayette* 12 Jul (SK), and 82 were near South Bay, *Palm Beach* 21 Jul (MK). Five pairs of White-tailed Kites built six nests at Kissimmee Prairie Preserve S.P., *Okeechobee* in May and Jun (CT et al.). Two male Snail Kites were at Lake Istokpoga 30 Jun (MM). Single Mississippi Kites were reported from Crystal River, *Citrus* 3 Jun (MG) and s. Jacksonville, *Duval* 15 Jun (JC). Fifteen Bald Eagles were at L. Apopka R.A. 1 Jun (DF, JCI), while a Northern Harrier was at Kissimmee Prairie Preserve S.P. 25 Jul (CT, PM). An ad. Short-tailed Hawk was at Lettuce Lake Park, *Hillsborough* 20 Jul (BA, RW). A Broad-winged Hawk nest at Gainesville, *Alachua* fledged young 11 Jul (ES, MP). An ad. and juv. Crested Caracara were at Palm Bay, *Brevard* 16 Jun (DS). Summering American Kestrels were at L. Apopka R.A. (HR), Brandon, *Hillsborough* (BP, DP), and *Pasco* (BP, DP). A Peregrine Falcon was found at Green Key, New Port Richey, *Pasco* 19–20 Jul (KT, JMCK). Forty-eight Northern Bobwhite were found at L. Apopka R.A. 5 Jun (HR), and a Black Rail was heard calling from

“semi-native prairie” at Buck I. Ranch, *Highlands* 23 Jul (MM). Forty-seven Purple Gallinules and one American Coot were at L. Apopka R.A. 3 Jul (HR). Two adult Sandhill Cranes with a juvenile were s. of normal at Frog Pond W.M.A., *Miami-Dade* 28 Jul (RD). Plovers at L. Apopka R.A. included 3 Black-bellieds and 4 Semipalmateds 10 Jun (HR). Eight ad. and 2 juv. Snowy Plovers and 40 Wilson’s Plovers were at Little Estero Lagoon, Ft. Myers Beach, *Lee* 27 Jul (CE), while 41 other Wilson’s were at Huguenot Memorial Park, *Duval* 3 Jul (RC). Another Semipalmated Plover was found 9 Jun at Newnans L. (RR).

OYSTERCATCHER THROUGH SKIMMERS

An impressive 50 American Oystercatchers were at Little Estero Lagoon 17 Jul (CE). A Black-necked Stilt nest with 4 eggs at Springhill Road S.T.F., Tallahassee 10 Jun established the first breeding report for *Leon* (GM). Single American Avocets were at L. Apopka R.A. 2–23 Jun and 21 Jul (HR), Ft. Green Springs, *Hardee* 22 Jun (PG), and Spoonbill Pond, *Duval* 13 Jul (PL), while an impressive 248 were found at *Polk* phosphate mines Jul 8 (PF). Seven Greater Yellowlegs were at Springhill Road S.T.F. 16 Jun (GM), while one lingered until 26 Jun at St. Marks N.W.R. (JM). A Greater Yellowlegs at Ft. De Soto C.P. 3 Jul (LS, RS) was either an early returnee or a late lingerer; up to 10 southbound birds were at L. Apopka R.A. (HR) by the end of the season. The first returning Lesser Yellowlegs were 11 Jul at Little Estero Lagoon (CE) and 10 Jul at L. Apopka R.A., with up to 23 there by the end of the season (HR). Four Solitary Sandpipers were at L. Apopka R.A. 25 Jul (HR), with 4 others at Springhill Road S.T.F. 25 Jul (*fide* GM). Seventeen pairs of Willets were found at Huguenot Memorial Park, *Duval* (RC). Two Spotted Sandpipers were at L. Apopka R.A. 2 Jun (HR), with singles there 25–31 Jul (HR) and at Ormond Beach, *Volusia* 25 Jun (LM).

Three Whimbrels were at Huguenot Memorial Park, *Duval* 3 Jul (RC), while one was at Green Key, New Port Richey 13–27 Jul (JMCK). A Marbled Godwit was found at Green Key 13 Jul (KT). A single Red Knot was at Huguenot Memorial Park 26 Jun (RC), while 7 were at Little Estero Lagoon 11 Jul (CE). Northbound Semipalmated Sandpipers lingered until 12 Jun at L. Apopka R.A. (HR), with the first southbound individuals found 15 Jul at Springhill Road S.T.F. (*fide* GM). At L. Apopka R.A., the first southbound Western Sandpiper was seen 14 Jul, while Least Sandpipers lingered until 10 Jun and

returned 10 Jul (HR). Three White-rumped Sandpipers were at Wesley Chapel, *Pasco* 2 Jun (RW), with 13 at Newnans L., *Alachua* 4 Jun (IS), and 8 on 10 Jun and 2 on 12 Jun at L. Apopka R.A. (HR). A truly impressive total of over 100 White-rumped were at Homestead Racetrack, *Miami-Dade* 2 Jun (JB, PB). Two Pectoral Sandpipers were at L. Apopka R.A. 14 Jul, with 21 there 28 Jul (HR), while 8 were at Springhill Road S.T.F. 15 Jul (*fide* GM). Single Dunlins were at Bunche Beach, *Lee* 12 & 19 Jul (WW, B&CP) and at Crandon Beach, *Miami-Dade* 21 Jun (RD). Up to 7 Buff-breasted Sandpipers were at Homestead, *Miami-Dade* 1–4 Jun (JB, CS), possible the latest spring report for Florida. Other shorebirds at L. Apopka R.A. were 14 Stilt Sandpipers 25 Jul, 9 Short-billed Dowitchers 10 Jun, and a Long-billed Dowitcher 28 Jul (HR). Other Short-billed Dowitchers were at two sites in New Port Richey: 8 at Gulf Harbors 12 Jul (JMCK) and 9 at Green Key 14 Jul (KT). A Wilson’s Snipe was at Kissimmee Prairie Preserve S.P. in early Jul (PS), and an American Woodcock was found in a Tallahassee yard 9 Jul (HH).

Huguenot Memorial Park hosted 3300 Laughing Gulls with many nests 8 Jul, one Lesser Black-backed Gull 11 Jun (and 4 on 8 Jul), and 9 Great Black-backed Gulls 17 Jun (RC). Seven other Great Black-backed were at Jetty Park, *Brevard* 20 Jul (DS), and a Herring Gull was at L. Apopka R.A. 23 Jun (HR). Crandon Beach, *Miami-Dade* played host to an unusual accumulation of gulls for s. Florida, with a Ring-billed 27 Jul, a Herring all summer, and up to 8 Lesser Black-backed all summer (RD). Twenty-four pairs of Gull-billed Terns were at Bird Is., *Nassau*, but only one chick survived (PL). Fourteen Gull-billed Terns with 7 young were at *Polk* phosphate mines 8 Jul (PF). Seventeen hundred Royal Terns were found at Huguenot Memorial Park 8 Jul (RC), while one was inland at L. Apopka R.A. 10 Jul (HR). A Sandwich Tern originally banded at Kure Beach, North Carolina in 2001 was found dead at Ten Thousand Islands N.W.R., *Collier* 14 Jun (KC). A Roseate Tern was seen 23 Jun at Sebastian Inlet, *Brevard* (DD). Common Terns are unusual in Florida in the summer, so reports from L. Apopka R.A., *Duval*, *Nassau*, *Pinellas*, and *St. Johns* were quite unusual, with 15 in *Nassau* Sound 29 Jul (PL) being the largest number. Least Terns have taken to nesting on rooftops, with 40+ in S Jacksonville (JC), and 200+ and 30+ birds on two rooftops at Fleming Island, *Clay* (LMCC). On the negative side, no Least Terns nested at Anastasia S.P., *St. Johns* (*fide* PP) or Huguenot

Memorial Park (RC), and only few nested at Guana River S.P., *St. Johns* (fide PP). Two Bridled Terns and one Sooty Tern were 40 km se. of Port Canaveral 3 Jul (DG, WB et al.). More than 100 Black Terns were seen in Nassau Sound 29 Jun (PL), too late for northbound birds, so surely indicative of southbound birds, either nonbreeders or failed breeders, though not much earlier than mid-Jul average arrivals. A "large colony" of Black Skimmers at Bird Is. was washed out by extremely high tides 22 Jun; the birds renested, peaking at 600 ads., but all but 51 young were lost to high tides in Jul (PL).

DOVES THROUGH FINCHES

White-winged Doves have increased in the n. Peninsula, with reports from *Marion*, *Columbia*, *Hernando*, *Levy*, and *Alachua* (v.o.). Up to 22 individuals at four sites in *Columbia* was the highest number reported (RR). At L. Apopka R.A., Robinson recorded highs of 824 Mourning Doves 23 Jun and 63 Common Ground-Doves 2 Jun. A **Key West Quail-Dove** was at Long Key S.P., *Monroe* 19 Jun–7 Jul (JP, PR, JPU et al.). A report of Mangrove Cuckoo heard and glimpsed 5 Jul and heard twice in response to tape 14 Jul at Green Key, New Port Richey, *Pasco* (KT, JMcK) would represent the northernmost presumed breeding birds in Florida. Up to 7 Mangrove Cuckoos at J. N. "Ding" Darling N.W.R. (BA, CE et al.) and 3 at Weedon I. County Preserve, *Pinellas* (RS et al.) were at expected locations.

A Burrowing Owl at Viera, *Brevard* 14 Jul (DS) was the first at that location in five years. An "Antillean" Short-eared Owl was found at Plantation, *Broward* 4 Jun (JH, WG). Seven Ruby-throated Hummingbirds in a St. Augustine yard 21 Jun (JHo) was a high number for summer. Returning Belted Kingfishers were found in St. Sebastian River State Buffer Preserve, *Indian River* on 20 Jun (DS), with one reaching *Collier* by 18 Jul (TD). Fourteen Gray Kingbirds found along Green Key Road, New Port Richey (RSm) was a high count. A migrant Yellow-throated Vireo was at L. Apopka R.A. 31 Jul (HR), while 12 breeding Black-whiskered Vireos 11 Jul at "Ding" Darling N.W.R. were a good count (BA). Two early migrant Red-eyed Vireos were at West Kendall 16 Jul (JB). Gathering for their southward migration, 450 Purple Martins were at Viera 14 Jul (DS). Two Tree Swallows were at L. Apopka R.A. 3 Jul (HR). Northern Rough-winged Swallows were found in the vicinity of a presumed nesting burrow 9 Jun along Moses Cr., *St. Johns* (ES); additional Rough-wingeds were reported from *Orange*,

Brevard, and *Polk*, but with no evidence of breeding. A Bank Swallow was at L. Apopka R.A. 25–28 Jul (HR), while Cliff Swallows were there 17 Jul (3) and 21 Jul (2; HR). A Barn Swallow was at Kissimmee Prairie Preserve S.P. 19 Jul (PS, PM, CT).

Fifteen Marsh Wrens were observed from an airboat at Werner–Boyce Salt Springs S.P., *Pasco* 3 Jul (KT). Two Wood Thrushes, one singing, were at Ponce De Leon Springs S.R.A., *Holmes* 2 Jun (DS). An American Robin was in Gainesville 4 Jul (RR, NR). The first migrant Northern Parulas were found 7 Jul in *Pinellas* (JF), while the first migrant Yellow Warbler was at St. Sebastian River State Buffer Preserve, *Indian River* 18 Jul (DS). A Cuban Golden Warbler was at Gullivan Key, Ten Thousand Islands N.W.R., *Collier* 6 Jun (TD). Migrant warblers at L. Apopka R.A. were Yellow-throateds 17 & 31 Jul, one Prairie 15 Jul, and a Palm on 30 Jun (HR). The latter observation is somewhat baffling, as it is too late for a northbound bird and much too early for a southbound bird. Two other Prairies were at St. Sebastian River State Buffer Preserve, *Indian River* 15 Jul (DS). The first southward bound Black-and-white Warbler was found 2 Jul at Cedar Key (DH), with numerous others thereafter at several locations (v.o.). An American Redstart 2 Jun at L. Apopka R.A. (HR) was a late lingerer, while the first fall returnee was found there 25 Jul (HR). The first southbound Prothonotary Warbler was found 25 Jul at Seminole, *Pinellas* (JF), and the first Louisiana Waterthrush was at Tallahassee 21 Jun (FR). A singing Hooded Warbler was at Crystal River State Buffer Preserve, *Citrus* 5 Jun (A&BH), while the first migrant was at Seminole, *Pinellas* 16 Jul (JF). Single singing Yellow-breasted Chats were at Crystal River State Buffer Preserve 5 Jun (A&BH) and at Sunnyhill Farms R.A., *Marion* 16 Jun (ES, IS). A seasonal total of 35 Yellow-breasted Chats was found at L. Apopka R.A., with 21 there on 10 Jun (HR).

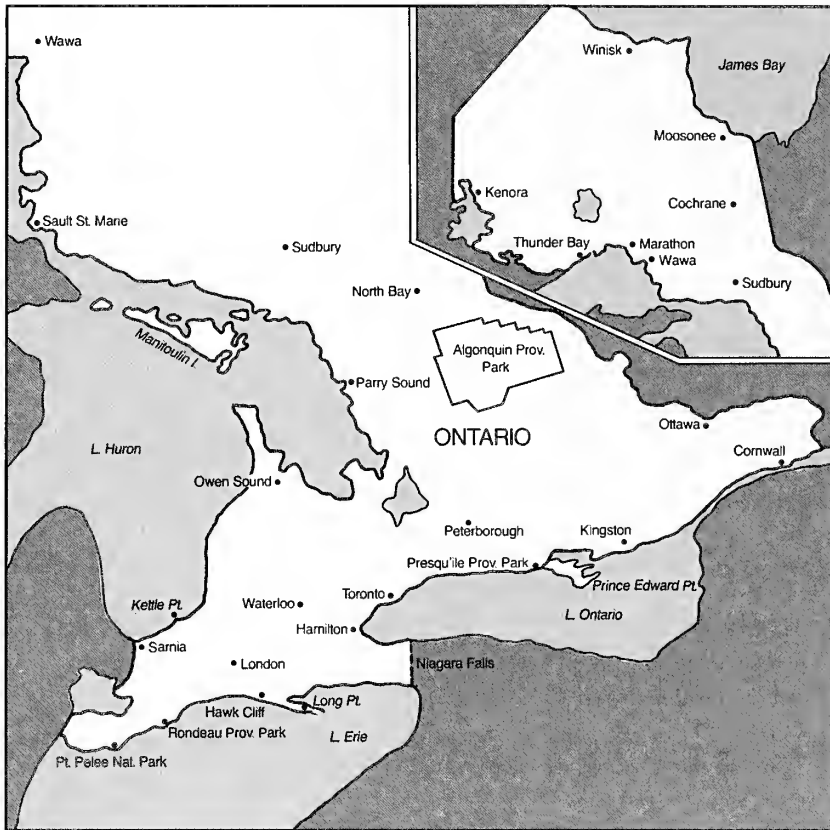
Twenty Seaside Sparrows were observed from an airboat at Werner–Boyce Salt Springs S.P., *Pasco* 3 Jul (KT). Four singing Blue Grosbeaks and 20 singing Painted Buntings were at Scotsmoor, *Brevard* 26 Jul (DS). Seasonal totals of singing males at L. Apopka R.A. included 74 Blue Grosbeaks and 65 Indigo Buntings (HR). An early migrant Indigo Bunting was at Frog Pond W.M.A., *Miami-Dade* 28 Jul (RD). Twenty-eight Painted Buntings were in song at Mims, *Brevard* 21 Jul (DS). A male Dickcissel was at L. Apopka R.A. 30 Jun–31 Jul, while another male continued to sing at Frog Pond W.M.A.,

Miami-Dade until 6 Jul. This individual was present for more than two months, but despite considerable searching, neither a nest nor a female was ever found (LMA). An impressive 4050 Boat-tailed Grackles were there 21 Jul (HR). A male Shiny Cowbird was at Cedar Key throughout Jun (DH), and a very early Baltimore Oriole returned to Seminole 31 Jul (JF). House Finches continue to expand their range in Florida, with 5 at Lakeland, *Polk* 4 Jun (MCh), one at Ormond Beach, *Volusia* 28 Jun (FP), a single and a pair feeding young at two sites in s. Jacksonville (PP, JC), and 4 that summered at New Port Richey (JMcK).

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Ontario



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This summer was remarkable more for the weather than the birding. After a prolonged and cold spring, summer did arrive, heralded by a major storm system that pounded the northern and central parts of the province in early June. As much as 30 cm of rain fell in some areas in less than 24 hours, and the resulting flooding isolated communities, washed out roads and highways, and filled basements. Shoreline-nesting birds were adversely affected throughout the Region, as rapidly rising water levels flooded nests. As a result, few Common Loon nests were successful. July was a month of very high temperatures and humidity, particularly in the southern part of the province. Birding became an effort. Nevertheless, birders worked hard on the second year of the Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas project and by being out, turned up a number of interesting birds including Eared Grebe, Black-headed Gull, White-winged Dove, a possible White-

collared Swift, Chuck-will's-widow, and Scissor-tailed Flycatcher.

Abbreviations: G.T.A. (Greater Toronto Area); L.P.B.O. (Long Point Bird Observatory); N.P. (National Park); O.B.R.C. (Ontario Bird Records Committee); P.P. (Provincial Park); S.T.P. (Sewage Treatment Ponds); T.C.B.O. (Thunder Cape Bird Observatory).

LOONS THROUGH WATERFOWL

A lingering Red-throated Loon at the Tip of Long Point 2 Jun was unusual for the season. Heavy rains during the first part of Jun throughout the n. and cen. parts of the province raised water levels just at the time waterbirds and waterfowl were nesting along shorelines. In Algonquin P.P., all Common Loon nests on Smoke L. were inundated and subsequently lost (EK). In the nw., loon production was down significantly. Long Point had 3 Horned Grebes 20 Jul+, the first Jul record for the area (DG et al.). Red-necked Grebes again nested along L. Ontario from the G.T.O. to Bronte, some using small artificial islands anchored offshore and tolerating

continuous pleasure-boat traffic (m. ob.). One nest contained 10 eggs, indicating that the species does on occasion "dump" eggs. In the Sudbury area, 2 pairs nested on Kelley L. (JL). Eared Grebes were again present on the Emo S.T.P., with 4 noted 1 Jun and 2 on 7 Jun (DHE, CM, GM). A single was at the Rainy River S.T.P. 1 Jun (DHE, CM, GM). The Emo birds may have attempted to nest, but no evidence of success was found during visits later in the period. Double-crested Cormorants nested for the first time in Algonquin P.P., with 4 nests on an island in Opeongo L. in early Jun (TM) and a single nest on Merchant L. 25 Jul (DS). The Opeongo nests were destroyed by fishermen. An American White Pelican was at Shoreacres Park, G.T.A. 6 Jun (AM, *vide* TAC). Great Egrets nested for the first time in the G.T.A. Three nests were found in a Black-crowned Night-Heron colony on the Leslie Street Spit 20 Jun (m. ob.). At least 4 young fledged from two of the nests. A Cattle Egret was found at the Blenheim landfill 8 Jul (KB), and another was found along the Murray Canal, e. of Brighton 31 Jul (PC). An imm. Black-crowned Night-Heron was at Kelley L., Sudbury 21 Jun, and several ads. were reported from Manitoulin I. in Jun (CB). An ad. white-morph Snow Goose lingered at Grafton until 4 Jun (MB), and the last Brant of a large flock in Cobourg Harbour left 3 Jun (MB). A pair of Trumpeter Swans nested near Lively for the 3rd year and had 4 cygnets 21 Jun (JL). Tundra Swans stayed in the s., with one near Selkirk P.P. 1 Jul (JM) and another at Hillman Marsh near Point Pelee N.P. 4 Jul (DJW), an unusual summer record for the area. Canvasbacks were again present during the nesting season on the Leslie Street Spit, but no young were noted (RBHS). A female with recently hatched young was found 11 Jul at the Oshawa Second Marsh (TH) for the first Durham Region nesting record. A Ring-necked Duck at Selkirk P.P. 5 Jul (JM) was unusual, and an unexpected Surf Scoter was present on Little L. near Brighton 7-18 Jul (DM). Ten Long-tailed Ducks off Rock Point P.P. 7 Jul were an interesting summer record (HK). Six Ruddy Ducks at Hillman Marsh 7 Jun were presumed late migrants (AW), while 11 at the Rainy River S.T.P. 1 & 7 Jun with several displaying males suggested possible breeding (DHE, CM, GM). Similarly, a flock of 5 with displaying males was on the Warton S.T.P. 26 Jun (JJ).

VULTURES THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

Ospreys had a good summer on the Bruce Pen., with five active nests, an encouraging



White-winged Doves continue to appear well out of range across much of the continent. This bird spent 7-20 (here 9) July 2002 at the St. Clair National Wildlife Area, Ontario. *Photograph by Alan Wormington.*

situation (JJ). A pair that nested on top of a tall grain auger on a farm near London in 2001 was enticed this year to use a nest platform placed nearby to avoid the farm machinery (PR). Bald Eagles had 5 active nests in the Long Point area (L.P.B.O.) throughout the period. A nest near Delaware along the Thames R. failed (PR), but a successful one near Wiarton was the first in the area since the 1950s (JJ). Another nest in Lambton County fledged 2 young, the first for that area in 40 years (AM). Breeding Broad-winged Hawks are scarce in sw. Ontario, making a nest found near Skunks Misery, *Middlesex* noteworthy (PR). Four American Kestrels flying over Seaciff near Point Pelee N.P. 23 Jul were record-early fall migrants (AW). A pair of Merlins nested successfully in Presqu'île P.P. for the first time in many years (FH et al.). The Sudbury area had four pairs of nesting Peregrine Falcons, including a pair that used a site on an abandoned smelter chimney 66 m above the ground (JL).

A Sora nest with 4 eggs found in Algonquin P.P. 23 Jun was the first for the park (RT). Two American Avocets at Peacock Pt. 28 Jul were a nice summer find (DG). A Western Willet was seen 1 Jun at Horseshoe Bay and what was likely the same bird 2 Jun at Burgoyne (MEC). An Upland Sandpiper was found at Hanmer, near Sudbury in mid-Jun, the first for the area in many years (CW).

A tardy flock of 47 Sanderlings was at the tip of Point Pelee N.P. 1-3 Jun, a good count for the late date. By early Jul, southbound shorebirds were being seen across the province. Numbers of expected species built slowly through Jul, with a noteworthy Baird's Sandpiper at Kettle Point 15 Aug (AR). A Whimbrel was seen on and off for a week starting 16 Jul (AR), and by 22 Jul 9 Ruddy Turnstones were at the Grand Bend S.T.P. (AR).

JAEGERS THROUGH CROWS

The fall jaeger season got off to a nice start with the discovery of an ad. Long-tailed Jaeger at Kettle Point 15 Jul (CB) that was followed by another on 18 Jul (AR). By mid-Jul, large numbers of Franklin's Gulls had built up in the se. corner of the Lake of the Woods, n. of Rainy R., with 5000 being the most reported (DL). The large numbers likely resulted from birds moving e. after nesting failures in s. Manitoba due to flooding in Jun. Two ad. Little Gulls 10 Jul were record-early fall migrants for Point Pelee N.P. (AW). A **Black-headed Gull** in definitive basic plumage was at the Tip of Point Pelee N.P. 26 Jul (RCR). Lesser Black-backed Gulls summered along the Great Lakes, with a first-summer bird at the Tip of Point Pelee N.P. 7 Jun (AW), a second-summer bird at the same location 26 Jun (RCR), and 2 at Peacock Point 6 Aug (DG). A Glaucous Gull at Rondeau P.P. was last seen in mid-Jul (m. ob.).

A **White-winged Dove** stayed 7-20 Jul at the St. Clair National Wildlife Area (DP). Northern Hawk Owls bred again in the Thunder Bay area, with four nests found during the period (NGE). Most surprising was the discovery of an injured **Chuck-will's-widow** in Point Pelee N.P. 5 Jun (AW). An astonishing report of a **White-collared Swift** was received from Rondeau P.P. 10 Jun (TR). If accepted by the O.B.R.C., it would be a new species for the provincial list. The nearest record to the Region comes from adjacent Michigan, also in spring. An Olive-sided Flycatcher at Rondeau P.P. 10 Jun (SC) was likely moving north, while another 3 Aug at Selkirk P.P. was heading south. Late-migrating single Acadian Flycatchers were found at Point Pelee N.P. 2 Jun (FJU) and 7 Jun (AW).

Work on the Acadian Flycatcher/Hooded Warbler Recovery Programme continued this summer, and while final results are not complete, encouraging numbers of Acadian Flycatchers were found across the s. of the province. A Willow Flycatcher seen and heard at Sudbury 2 Jun was unusual for the area (CW, CB). A **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** was at Sandhill 14-30 Jul (PG) and at one point was observed sitting in an old Eastern Kingbird nest. A territorial White-eyed Vireo was present at Long Point throughout the period (L.P.B.O.). Two Common Ravens were seen and the calls of young heard near Udora 7 Jul (DB), an indication of the continuing south-

ward movement of the species as a breeding bird. A Horned Lark of the race *praticola* was at Algonquin P.P. 12 Jun. A common breeder in s. Ontario, this race has been rarely observed in the park except as an early spring migrant (KC, DT, RT).

WRENS THROUGH FINCHES

Carolina Wrens benefiting from two mild winters were present and breeding in the G.T.A. in unusually high numbers throughout the period. At least 5 singing males were noted, and a pair was feeding fledged young 13 Jun at Snug Harbour on the Toronto Is. (FP). A House Wren in Algonquin P.P. 18 Jun was the first in 10 years. Forest maturation and the disappearance of small settlements probably contributed to the decline of this formerly common breeding bird (MR, DT). A remarkable 110 nests and 235 occupied territories were found in the G.T.A. during the ongoing Northern Mockingbird Study (*vide* RBHS). Many cases of 2nd, 3rd, and even 4th nestings by the same pair were recorded. Farther n., a single bird was found in Algonquin P.P. 21 Jun, where it is but a rare visitor (JD, CR).

A Black-throated Blue Warbler was at Point Pelee N.P. 23 Jun, an unusual summer record (AW). A Blackpoll Warbler found 13

Jun in Algonquin P.P. was on a record-late date (CJ) and likely the result of the very late spring. To the nw., a strong warbler movement was still ongoing during the 2nd week in Jun along the e. shore of the Lake of the Woods (DHE). At least 20 Cerulean Warbler territories were found in Skunks Misery during the period, a remarkable and encouraging number (PR). Single Worm-eating Warblers were found 1 Jun in the Bachus Woods (L.P.B.O.) and 4 Jun at Point Pelee N.P. (FJU).

Birders on an Ontario Field Ornithologists field tour 16 Jun to the Bruce Pen. were treated to a singing Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow (JM), quite unexpected for the area and time of year. Surprisingly, another found at the Tip of Point Pelee N.P. 7 Jun was of the subspecies *alterus* (AW), only the 2nd spring record for this subspecies. A Dickcissel was at the Tip of Point Pelee N.P. 3 Jun (DKS). Western Meadowlarks have all but disappeared in the Rainy R. area, where they were a common breeding bird in the pastures and hayfields even five years ago. No obvious changes in the field habitat have occurred, so whatever has caused the decline could be on the wintering grounds or the migration route (DHE). A Yellow-headed Blackbird at Point Pelee N.P. 14-21 Jul was a very unusual summer record (VB, BC et al.), while another on the

Bruce Pen. 5 Jun was likely a lingering migrant (DL). An Orchard Oriole nest with 2 attending ads. was a nice find 23 Jun at Park Head on the Bruce Pen. (JJ) and one of the very few breeding records for the area. A record-late Purple Finch remained 27 May—2 Jun at the Tip of Point Pelee N.P. (DKS, GB, DB).

Cited observers (subregional coordinators in boldface): Margaret Bain, Dorothy Balkwill, Gary Balkwill, Dennis Barry, C. Bell, Valerie Blazeski, Carole Buck, Keith Burk, Bernie Campbell, Phil Careless, Michael E. Carlson, Steve Charbonneau, Kevin Clute, Thomas A. Crooks, Jason Dombroski, David H. Elder, Nick G. Escott, Denys Gardner, Don Graham, Phylis Graydon, Fred Helleiner, Tyler Hoar, Colin Jones, Joe Johnson, Esther Keyser, Harris Klick, Dan Lee, John Lemon, D. Lewington, Alistar MacKensie, Chris Martin, Gord Martin, Arlene McCaw, Trevor Middell, John Miles, Dave Mudd, Frank Pinilla, Don Perks, Pete Read, Tristan Rheinallt, Ian Richards (L.P.B.O.), Alf Rider, Ron C. Ridout, Chris Robinson, Michael Runtz, D. Keith Sealy, Roy B.H. Smith, Dan Strickland, Doug Tozer, Ron Tozer, Fred J. Urie, Dean J. Ware, C. Whitelaw, Alan Wormington.



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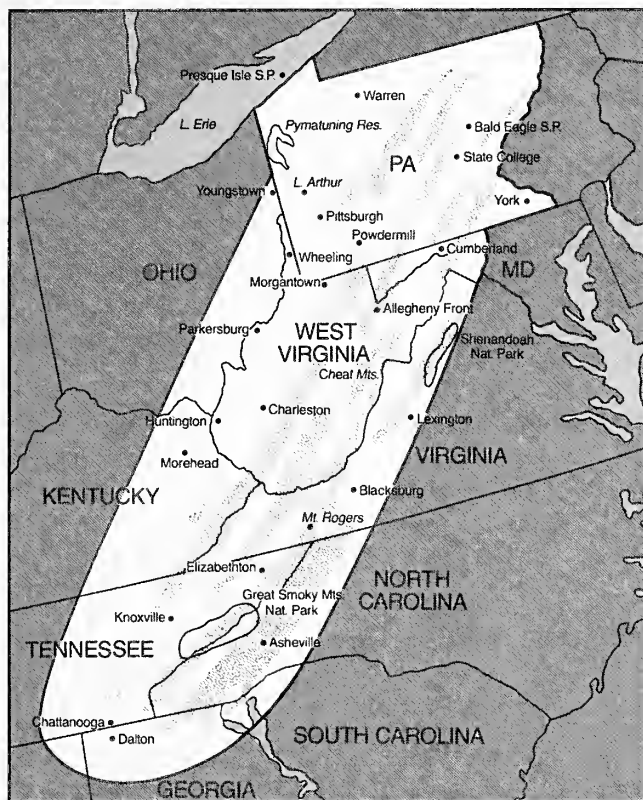
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Appalachia



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Hot, unseasonably dry weather prevailed over most of the Region this summer, although it reportedly was wetter than usual in southern West Virginia, and the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia received more rain than most surrounding areas, though it is still in drought. Nesting birds undoubtedly benefited locally from the emergence of Brood VIII of the 17-year cicada in western Pennsylvania. Recent projects involving extensive breeding bird surveys in agricultural and reclaimed stripmine habitats across Pennsylvania are beginning to provide a clearer picture of the population status in northern Appalachia of nesting grassland species such as Upland Sandpiper, Grasshopper, Savannah, and Henslow's Sparrows. From a bird conservation perspective, however, it continues to be clear to this editor that the Region's extensive, intact forests—important refugia for innumerable nesting warblers, thrushes, and other Neotropical migrants in the eastern United

States—represent its most significant conservation priorities.

This is the final seasonal report for the Appalachian Region as such. Several Regions east of the Mississippi River have been restructured to follow state lines rather than physiographic provinces. Beginning with Volume 57, I will edit a region comprised of the states of Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Ohio. Contributors who have sent reports from the western Carolinas and Georgia, please send your reports for fall 2002 to Ricky Davis (RJDNC@aol.com), who edits the new Southern Atlantic Region, now made up of all of North and South Carolina and Georgia. For those who have submitted reports from eastern Tennessee and Kentucky, those states will now be edited together, as a new separate Region by Brainard Palmer-Ball (Brainard.Palmer-Ball@mail.state.ky.us) and Chris Sloan (chris.slaon@comcast.net) two energetic contributors with a deep knowledge of bird distribution in those states. For those who have contributed from the little bit of northeastern Alabama formerly in this Region, please forward your notes to the various seasonal editors of the Central Southern Region. Western Maryland and Virginia will revert to the Middle Atlantic region, edited by Marshall J.

Illif (miliff@aol.com). New to this editor will be western Ohio and eastern Pennsylvania. I look forward to communicating with editors and contributors from these areas in the season to come.

Abbreviations: B.B.S. (Breeding Bird Survey), P.I.S.P. (Presque Isle S.P., Erie, PA), P.N.R. (Powdermill Nature Reserve, Rector, Westmoreland, PA).

LOONS THROUGH IBIS

There were more than the usual numbers of summering Common Loon from Appalachia, including 2 as far s. as Laurel River L., Laurel, KY 13 Jun—25 Jul (*fide* BPB), one near Waynesboro, VA much of the season (AL), and one on Chickamauga L., TN 29 Jul (*fide* KC). Four Pied-billed Grebes were heard calling at Grand River W.A., OH 16 Jun (CB), several family groups were observed at Conneaut Marsh, Crawford, PA this season (RFL, RCL), and for the 2nd year in a row breeding was documented at Yellow Cr. S.P., Indiana, PA (MH*i*).

An imm. **Brown Pelican** that appeared on Chickamauga L. 5-11 Jul was a first for se. Tennessee and represented just the 6th record for the state (KC, m. ob.). Nonbreeding Double-crested Cormorants, increasingly common in summer throughout the Region, peaked at 36 birds at Pymatuning L., PA 23 Jun (MB).

After a decade or more of low numbers, American Bitterns appeared to be on the rebound at Conneaut Marsh, where 4 were heard calling near Geneva, PA 3 Jun (RFL). Least Bitterns, rare and local in the s. mountains, were possibly nesting at Standifer Gap Marsh, Hamilton, TN this summer (*fide* KC), and well-known breeding populations seemed stable at Conneaut Marsh and P.I.S.P. in nw. Pennsylvania (m. ob.). Great Blue Herons continue to do well in Appalachia: "excellent numbers" were seen throughout s. West Virginia (RC), and a colony at Lordstown, OH contained 375 nests scattered over 88 trees (CB). Single imm. Little Blue Herons wandered to Hendersonville, NC 29 Jul (WF) and to Standifer Gap Marsh, TN 22 Jul (DS*p*), while an ad. was a rare find at S. Williamson, Pike, KY in mid-Jul (LE). The only report of Cattle Egret was of 9 at Baylor L., Hamilton, TN 16 Jul (BH). A **Tricolored Heron** on the Shenandoah R., Jefferson, WV 31 Jul—6 Aug (MO, JTr, m. ob.) provided a first state record of the species. Becoming more regular in s. Appalachia in recent years, 3 imm. White Ibis appeared at Four Seasons Marsh, Hendersonville, NC 29 Jun (MW, WF), while in Hamilton, TN, singles were at Amnicola Marsh 9 Jun (BH) and Brainerd Levee 27 Jun (KC).

WATERFOWL THROUGH CRANES

The eventual breeding of Mute Swans seems inevitable at P.I.S.P., where a group of 11 appeared in mid-Jun and remained through the end of the season (BC, JM); an out-of-season Tundra Swan was spotted there 15 Jun (JM). A Gadwall was a rare summer find at Pymatuning L., PA 21 Jun (MB, NT); even more unusual was an American Wigeon on the Ohio R. at Blennerhassett I., Parkersburg, WV 20 Jul (JB, DE, JTh). A Green-winged Teal was a seasonal rarity near Huntingdon, PA 15 Jun (*vide* GG), as were a Greater Scaup 4-8 Jul and up to 3 Lesser Scaup at P.I.S.P. 2-27 Jul (BC). The stray duck of the season, however, may have been the male Common Goldeneye spotted on Chickamauga L., TN 23 Jul (DWm). Up to 5 Ruddy Ducks were on the upper reservoir at Pymatuning L. (where they have been known to breed occasionally) during mid-Jun (RFL, MB), 2 males and 2 females were at Old Crow wetlands, *Huntingdon*, PA through 15 Jun (MHe, JD), and one was at P.I.S.P. 16 Jun—6 Jul (LM, BC).

Bald Eagles continued to expand their breeding range almost throughout the Region; in w. Pennsylvania, 36 known active nests, five of which were new this year, produced at least 45 eaglets (*vide* DB). After years of low population levels, Northern Harriers also appeared to be increasing in n. Appalachia, with numerous reports from w. Pennsylvania (JP, m. ob.), and summer sightings from *Logan*, *Boone*, and *Grant* in West Virginia (RC). Two Cooper's Hawk nests in *Augusta*, VA (*vide* YL) represented the 2nd and 3rd breeding records for that area. Two Northern Goshawk nests in *Huntingdon* were rare finds for s.-cen. PA (*vide* GG). In the upper Cedar Cr. Valley, *Shenandoah*, VA, no summering Broad-winged Hawks could be found (DD), and they were considered scarce in some areas of w. Pennsylvania. In Tennessee, 2 Peregrine Falcons fledged from a nest at Chickamauga Dam (KC); and two nests on buildings in Pittsburgh, PA both produced 4 young this year (DB). Four Swallow-tailed Kites 31 Jul—Aug in *St. Claire* (Mary Jane Wells, m. ob.) were unusual for Alabama's mountain region.

King Rail sightings at Standifer Gap Marsh, TN 1 & 9 Jun (DP) suggested the possibility that they might be nesting there, and up to 3 Virginia Rails were also seen at Standifer Gap in mid-Jun (*vide* KC). Single Soras at Brainerd Levee 9 Jul (DP) and Amnicola Marsh, TN 16 Jul (DV) both may have been early migrants (*vide* KC); 3 were heard calling at Grand River W.A., OH 16 Jun (CB). High water levels favored nesting Common Moorhens in *Crawford*, PA, where records included 4 ads.

and 15 young in one small area of Geneva Marsh 17 Jun (RFL). Summer records of American Coot included 2 at Geneva Marsh 7 Jun, where they possibly nested (RFL), 2 at P.I.S.P. 8 Jul (*vide* JM), and 2 at Yellow Cr. S.P., PA 30 Jul (MHi). A Sandhill Crane at Smith's Swoope, *Augusta*, VA 15-28 Jul represented a first county record (AL, YL, m. ob.) and a very unusual summer sighting for Virginia.

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH TERNS

An American Avocet was a rare find at Chickamauga L., TN 23 Jul (DWm); in Pennsylvania, where avocets have been reported with increasing frequency in recent years, one was at Canoe Creek S.P. 14 Jul (*vide* RBo), 2 at P.I.S.P. 22 Jul (BC), and 9 at Beaver Run Res., *Westmoreland* 23 Jul (MF, MM, m. ob.). Two early Willets also were a good find at Presque Isle 17 Jul, as was an early Sanderling on 4 Jul (BC). A "hot spot" for Upland Sandpipers was cen. *Somerset*, PA, where several pairs were observed on at least a half-dozen agricultural and reclaimed strip-mine sites (JP, RSM); up to 3 Uplands were seen in mid-Jun near Pymatuning L., where they presumably were breeding (MB, NT), and a single bird was at Imperial Grasslands, *Allegheny*, PA 13 Jul (DWT). Two late spring migrant Western Sandpipers stopped at Donegal L., *Westmoreland*, PA 3 Jun (RCL), and 2 late Least Sandpipers, along with a late White-rumped Sandpiper, were at North Branch, *Allegheny*, MD 6 Jun (JC). An early Stilt Sandpiper appeared at P.I.S.P. 8 Jul (BC), and 2 were at Imperial, *Allegheny*, PA 13 Jul (*vide* PH).

At least 15 Herring Gulls fledged from nests at the Highland Park Bridge in Pittsburgh, the Region's only extant colony (SK). Away from L. Erie, an early Caspian Tern was at Yellow Creek S.P., *Indiana*, PA 25 Jun (MHi), and 2 Common Terns were at Pymatuning L. 17 Jun (RFL). A Forster's Tern was an unusual late summer find at L. Julian, *Buncombe*, NC 31 Jul (WF). Up to 4, presumably breeding, Black Terns were at Hartstown Marsh, *Crawford*, PA in Jun (MB, NT), and 2 were at Pymatuning L. near Linesville in Jul (RFL, RCL); a single migrant was at Standifer Gap Marsh, TN 22 Jul (DSp).

DOVES THROUGH WARBLERS

The Eurasian Collared-Dove that first appeared at Fairview, *Erie*, PA in Nov 2001 remained in that area and was occasionally seen through the summer period (JM); another was at Greencastle, *Franklin*, PA 26-30 Jun (JD, MH). A Black-billed Cuckoo on 11 Jun on Starr Mt., *Monroe*, TN was a good find for that area (*vide* KC). Both Black-billed and

Yellow-billed Cuckoos were in good numbers in s. West Virginia (RC) and in sw. Pennsylvania, where widespread periodical cicadas may have been a factor (PH, m. ob.). High numbers of Yellow-billed Cuckoos in Rothrock S.F., *Huntingdon*, PA correlated with gypsy moth caterpillar activity (GG). The season's only report of Short-eared Owl came from W. Lebanon, *Indiana*, PA 28 Jun (SS). With 15 reported from *Raleigh*, *McDowell*, and *Wyoming*, Whip-poor-wills seemed to be recovering from recent lows in s. West Virginia (RC), and one heard calling 26 Jun in the upper Cedar Cr. Valley suggested breeding in *Shenandoah*, VA after an absence of several years (DD).

An Olive-sided Flycatcher near Berlin, *Somerset*, PA 9 Jun (JP) was a normal late migrant, and one at Paddy Knob 6 Jul in *Highland*, VA was tantalizing (TMG, DJS), but no evidence of breeding was reported from within the Region. A total of 47 Eastern Woodpeewees was listed on three B.B.S. routes in Rothrock S.F., PA in Jun, compared to a 10-year average of 35 (GG), and 244 Red-eyed Vireos were listed on the Rothrock surveys compared to an average of 161. Cliff Swallow numbers were generally up in the Region, with a high count of 120 active nests (and at least 300 birds) at Linesville Fish Hatchery, Pymatuning L., PA 7 Jun (RFL).

Nesting Red-breasted Nuthatches were considered "very common" at Cranberry Glades, *Pocahontas*, WV this season (GB), and 5 birds, including at least one pair, were at Red R. Gorge, *Wolfe*, KY 7 Jul (FR). Five ad. and one imm. Brown-headed Nuthatches were found during a quick survey at Kingston Steam Plant, *Roane*, TN 8 Jun, despite deteriorating habitat (FR), and two small colonies persist, far from any other breeders, in pine stands on the Radford Army Arsenal, *Pulaski*, VA (R. Mayhorn et al.). A Sedge Wren at P.I.S.P. 1 Jun (GM) may have been a migrant, but one singing from a hay field at Conneautville, *Crawford*, PA on 30 Jun (CN) suggests possible breeding.

There continue to be strongholds of Golden-winged Warblers in Appalachia; surveys in s. West Virginia, for example, produced a total of 475 Golden-winged, 185 Blue-winged Warblers, and 8 Brewster's Warblers. Three of the Brewster's were found in a 2.4-km stretch on a mountain top removal site along Coal River Mt., *Raleigh*, WV (RC). Among warblers showing significant increases on the Rothrock S.F. surveys in *Huntingdon*, PA were Chestnut-sided (13 compared to 10-year average of 5), Black-throated Green Warbler with 41 (average 23), American Redstart at 33 (aver-

age 25), and Hooded Warbler 26 (average 18; GG). Prothonotary Warbler numbers seemed to be stable at their well-known breeding stations in the Pymatuning/Conneaut Marsh area of nw. Pennsylvania (*vide* RFL, RCL). Elsewhere, in the n. part of the Region, a pair was seen feeding young on Blennerhassett Is., Wood, WV 20 Jul (JB, DE, JT). Singing Swainson's Warblers were found at Big South Fork N.W.R.R.A., Fentress, TN 8 Jun (FR), and at Red R. Gorge, Wolfe, KY 7 Jul (FR); one at Carter Caves S.P. 29 Jun was n. of the documented breeding range in e. Kentucky (SM). Three singing male Cerulean Warblers in Jackson 31 May (CDC, MSG) suggested the first breeding in ne. Alabama in decades.

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES

A Summer Tanager was heard singing near Clarksville, Greene, PA 21-22 Jun (RBe), where it is a rare but regular breeder; the only known such site in the sw. sector of the state. A Clay-colored Sparrow was seen in the Piney Track, a known breeding locality in Clarion, PA 1 Jun (JF), and a pair nested in the Canaan Valley, Tucker, WV for the 2nd year in a row (GF). Grasshopper Sparrows were "holding their own" in the upper Cedar Cr. valley, Shenandoah, VA (DD); in Pennsylvania, they were considered more common than usual in Somerset (JP, RSM), and "hundreds" were observed in a grassland survey focused on s. Clearfield (DB). A few Henslow's Sparrows nested in Tucker, WV, where young were found in late Jul (GF), and breeding was confirmed in both Allegany and Garrett, MD (JC, MJI). Three colonies of Henslow's were located in reclaimed strip-mine areas in Somerset, PA (JP), and large numbers were reported during the s. Clearfield surveys (DB). Henslow's Sparrows located on Radford Arsenal, Pulaski, VA have been studied here since 1997 at least; counts as high as 30 singing birds have been made here. Four were seen 1 Jul (R. Mayhorn), and one was seen as late as 8 Jul (TMD, CMS et al.). The **White-crowned Sparrow** at P.I.S.P. 1 Jul (BC) certainly was the passerine most out of time and place this summer.

Breeding Dark-eyed Juncos continue to increase in abundance at lower elevations in Appalachia; and up to 22 birds were seen in Jun (MB) in the Hartstown section of Pymatuning Swamp, Crawford, PA (well w. of the mts.), where they had been considered rare breeding birds since the flooding of most of the swamp in the late 1930s. Indigo Buntings were down in numbers in s. West Virginia (RC) and were scarce in the upper Cedar Cr. Valley, Shenandoah, VA (DD). In early Jun, at least a female and 2 singing male Dickcissels were

found a few km w. of Chambersburg, PA (DSn). Bobolinks were found in good numbers as far s. as Logan, Raleigh, and Fayette in West Virginia (RC); breeding populations seemed high in w. Pennsylvania (m. ob.), and a premigratory assemblage of 300+ young birds and molting ads. was at the Pymatuning Goose Management Area, Linesville, PA 18 Jul (RCL, RFL). The season's only report of Western Meadowlark was of a male singing for much of the summer near Dry Run, Franklin, PA (BK, AT). A pair of Purple Finches was at a feeder in Wood, WV 7 & 14 Jul, well w. of the higher ridges of the Allegheny Mts. (*vide* JE). In Morgantown, WV, House Finches appeared to be increasing after a decline of several years (GB), a trend also apparent at P.N.R. (RCL, RSM). This increase may indicate recovery from the conjunctivitis epidemic.

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Western Great Lakes



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Each state reported different weather conditions. Michigan was mostly hot and dry until late July, Wisconsin was cool and rainy in June, then very hot and dry in July, and Minnesota was warmer and wetter than normal all summer. Vast portions of nw. Minnesota including Agassiz N.W.R. were inundated after heavy rains in June.

Abbreviations: Horicon (Horicon Marsh, Dodge, WI); M.C.G.I. (Milwaukee Coast Guard Impoundment, WI); Mud L. (Mud Lake, Traverse, MN); Murphy-Hanrehan (Murphy-Hanrehan Regional Park, Dakota and Scott, MN); p. a. (pending acceptance); Port Huron (Port Huron State Game Area, St. Clair, MI); Pte. Mouillee (Pointe Mouillee State Game Area, Monroe, MI); Shiawassee (Shiawassee N.W.R., Saginaw, MI); Tawas Pt. (Tawas Point State Park, Iosco, MI); U.P. (Upper Peninsula of Michigan); W.P.B.O. (Whitefish Point Bird Observatory, Chippewa, MI).

LOONS THROUGH VULTURES

Migrant Red-throated Loons were at Duluth, MN 11 & 14 Jun (SWe et al.) and W.P.B.O. 18 Jun (LD). Unexpected were three reports of Horned Grebes on L. Superior in Minnesota 30 Jun—late Jul (m. ob.), but even more unusual were 2 or 3 throughout Jul in Alpena, MI (WNG). Earlier than usual was the Red-

necked Grebe at W.P.B.O. 2–7 Jul (DL, JTW), while others summered (max. 4, 13 Jun) in Alpena, MI (WNG). Impressive were the 400+ Eared Grebe nests at Swan L., Sibley, MN (DDM). An Eared Grebe at Shiawassee 6 Jun was a wanderer (DP). Away from the Great Lakes (as are most of Wisconsin's Western Grebes), singles were at Horicon 10–16 Jun (m. ob.) and Winnebago 17 Jun (TZ). An ad. Clark's Grebe at Long L., Meeker 4–15 Jul (DMF, CBe) and 2 at Thielke L., Big Stone (PCC, PHS) were at Minnesota locations where this species occurred in past years; by early Aug, 2 chicks accompanied one ad. at Thielke L., but the identity of the non-custodial parent was unknown. A new Minnesota breeding colony produced 48 American White Pelicans at Pigeon L., Meeker 18 Jul (RBJ et al.), while 140+ in Oconto, WI (JSm) indicated continuing growth of the Green Bay colony. Potentially a 2nd summer record for Michigan was the frigatebird n. of Anchor Bay, Casco Twp., St. Clair (p. a., REE).

Single Snowy Egrets were in Kandiyohi, MN (RSF), Dodge, WI (AH), and Fond du Lac, WI (DT). Little Blue Heron was not reported. Unexpected was a Tricolored Heron in Bay, MI 26 Jun (p. a., JGi, GP). Against the grain of scarcity among the Ardeidae and furnishing Minnesota's 2nd highest count were the 90 Cattle Egrets near Boisberg, Traverse 14 Jul (PHS). Wisconsin had Cattle Egrets in three counties, including 30+ in Fond du Lac (DT), while up to 5 spent the period in Bay, MI (fide GP). Yellow-

crowned Night-Heron was unreported Regionwide. In Minnesota, at least 4 of 5 White-faced Ibis from spring lingered in Murray through 2 Jun (MSS), and 2 more visited Meeker 13–17 Jul (DMF et al.). Potentially a first summer record for Michigan was the Black Vulture at Manitow Is., Keweenaw 16 Jul (p. a., JY).

WATERFOWL THROUGH GALLINULES

Providing the 4th Wisconsin record was a Black-bellied Whistling-Duck at M.C.G.I. 25–26 Jul (SL, ph. JI). Greater White-fronted Goose had occurred only about five times during summer in Minnesota, so singles in Sherburne 6 Jun (RBJ), Isanti 7 Jun (fide AXH), and Stearns 3 Jul (RPR) were noteworthy. Furnishing Minnesota's 4th summer record was an ad. Ross's Goose at L. Byllesby, Dakota 20–21 Jun (ADS et al.). Minnesota D.N.R. estimated 367,000 Mallards and 430,000 Blue-winged Teal, both up from last year's counts. Establishing Wisconsin's 2nd summer record was the Cinnamon Teal at Horicon 10 Jun (p. a., DC). Rarely documented as a breeding species in Wisconsin, a female Canvasback attended 2 young in Oneida 28 Jul (BF). Unusual for Michigan were single Long-tailed Ducks at Brimley W.T.P., Chippewa 16 Jun (SS) and Baraga Marina, Baraga 8–11 Jul (JY).

A well-documented ad. Mississippi Kite in Golden Valley, Hennepin, MN 9 Jun (TPB) followed a spate of unconfirmed reports in May. Still migrating were 250 Broad-winged Hawks at Fort Gratiot, St. Clair, MI 8 Jun (DM). Rare as a summer straggler and just 6 km s. of the Canadian border was the Rough-legged Hawk in Roseau, MN 2 Jul (GG). Noteworthy was a female Spruce Grouse with young at Little King L., Baraga, MI 30 Jun (JY). Sharp-tailed Grouse declined slightly—again—in nw. and e.-cen. Minnesota, while Michigan had reports from Chippewa and Mackinac in the U.P. Yellow Rails were in all three states, including Marquette (AS) and Oneida (BF) in Wisconsin, and 2 near Houghton L., Roscommon, MI (MEP). Common Moorhens in four Minnesota locations were mildly encouraging.

SHOREBIRDS

Black-bellied Plovers peaked at 42 in Alpena, MI 1 Jun; possibly summering were 2 there 28 Jun (WNG). Weekly surveys at Mud L. found American Golden-Plovers through at least 7 Jul (PCC, PHS), while one was in Houghton, MI 6 Jul (JY). Semipalmated Plovers peaked at 66 at Pte. Mouillee 2 Jun

(AMB). Michigan hosted 50 of the record-high 52 Piping Plover pairs breeding in the Great Lakes region; 140 eggs hatched, but only 65 fledglings survived (*vide* LG). Storms and high water levels precluded nesting at the traditional *Lake of the Woods*, MN site (JPE, PHS). Wisconsin's only Piping Plover was in *Marinette* 6 Jul (DT), where this species nested last year for the first time since 1941. A new record-high count for Minnesota was 530 Killdeer at Mud L. 7 Jul (PHS).

Exceptional for summer, American Avocets were in eight Minnesota counties, including nesting in *Becker*. Wisconsin had 2 in *Milwaukee* 13 Jul (KD, TCW) and one in *Vernon* (FZL). Michigan also had more avocets than usual, including one at *Shiawassee* 2 Jul (BG) and four reports from *Berrien* beginning 15 Jul (max. 5 at St. Joseph, 26 Jul). Willets were in three Minnesota counties; Michigan had multiple reports in *Berrien* between 29 Jun and 17 Jul, but most unusual were single Willets at *Tawas Pt.* 16–18 Jun (GN) and *W.P.B.O.* 14 Jul (LD, SH). Still northbound were 3 Whimbrels in *Monroe/Wayne*, MI 18 Jun (WGP); less easily classified were singles in *Vernon*, WI 17 Jul (FZL), *Alpena*, MI 18 Jul (WNG), and *Berrien*, MI 26 Jul (CJG). Providing Minnesota's 2nd summer record in modern times was the **Long-billed Curlew** at a sod farm in *Anoka* 19–28 Jul (PA, m. ob.). Except for 4 at *Mud L.* 28 Jul (PCC), the Region's only Hudsonian Godwit was at *Horicon* 21 Jun (DT). Small numbers of Marbled Godwits were in five Michigan locations, including the first for *South Haven* 28 Jul (JTW).

Minnesota had a northbound knot at *Duluth* 4 Jun (JBa) and an early fall migrant in *Dakota* 16 Jul (ADS). Sanderlings peaked at 56 at *Mud L.* 8 Jun (PCC), and 20 arrived in *Iosco*, MI 25 Jul (JSo). Probable late spring migrants included Semipalmated Sandpipers in *Dakota*, MN 20 Jun (ADS), *Meeker*, MN 23 Jun (DMF), and *Pte. Mouillee* 23 Jun (AMB); peak counts were 1072 at *Pte. Mouillee* 2 Jun (AMB) and 832 in *Lac Qui Parle*, MN 28 Jul (PCC). Most of the 1253 White-rumped Sandpipers at *Mud L.* 8 Jun were on the Minnesota side of the state line (PCC). White-rumped in *Baraga*, MI 21 Jun (JY) and two Minnesota locations 24 Jun (ADS, MCBS) were presumably northbound, but singles in *Berrien*, MI 7 (SS) & 13 Jul (GA) were likely summering. Difficult to classify was the Pectoral Sandpiper at *Mud L.* 17 Jun (PCC et al.). Dunlin not only peaked at 668 at *Pte. Mouillee* 2 Jun (AMB) but also sum-

mered there in small numbers. Apparently southbound and thus record-early was the Short-billed Dowitcher in *Lac Qui Parle*, MN 21 Jun (PCC); noteworthy were 395 at *Pte. Mouillee* 14 Jul (AMB). Wilson's Phalaropes in 35 Minnesota counties more than tripled the recent summer average and included the first *Lake* nesting (SGW). Single Red-necked Phalaropes lingered at *Horicon* 15 Jun (m. ob.) and *Mud L.* 16 Jun (PCC, PHS, RSF).

JAEGERS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Potentially Michigan's first summer occurrence was a Pomarine Jaeger in *Charlevoix* 11 Jun (p. a., *vide* JI). Single Laughing Gulls visited *New Buffalo*, *Berrien*, MI 22 Jun (AMB, PCC, JTW) and *Washburn*, WI 9 Jul (DV). Wisconsin had stray Franklin's Gulls in *Dane* (m. ob.) and *Chippewa* (JPo). A second-summer Little Gull was at the *Carp R.* mouth, *Mackinac*, MI 11 Jul (DL). The Region's only other Little Gull was in *Sheboygan*, WI 21 Jul (ES, TCW, DT). Still unexpected at this time of year, a Lesser Black-backed Gull spent the summer in *Manitowoc*, WI (CS), and possibly the same bird visited *Sheboygan* 14–17 Jun (D&MB). Furnishing about the 17th Wisconsin record was a Least Tern in *Marinette* 10 Jun (ph. JT).

Two **Eurasian Collared-Doves** in *Alamo Twp.*, *Kalamazoo* in late Jun enrolled this species on the Michigan list (p. a., m. ob.). Wisconsin reported one at *Milwaukee* 22 Jun (DG); others continued in *Ozaukee* (DG) and *Oconto* (MSP, JSm). Minnesota chimed in with one Eurasian Collared-Dove at *Herman*, *Grant* 23 Jun (ph. PHS), plus many reports from last year's nesting location in *Houston*. Also near a known nesting location was the Northern Hawk Owl at *Seagull L.*, *Cook*, MN 22 Jun (CBe). The Burrowing Owl in *Murray*, MN was last reported 2 Jun (MSS). Great Gray Owls in several Sax-Zim bog locations delighted A.B.A. members attending the *Duluth*, MN conference. A Great Gray was unfortunately hit by a car in *Chippewa*, MI 19 Jun (DL). Appearing at *Timm's feeder* for the 2nd consecutive year was a male Rufous Hummingbird at *Montello*, *Marquette*, WI 28 Jul (RC). Minnesota had Three-toed Woodpeckers in *Lake* (KRE) and *Cook* (CBe).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH MIMIDS

An Olive-sided Flycatcher at *Port Huron* 7 Jun was near end of the species's migration, which is typically late in spring (ATC). Out of range was the Willow Flycatcher in *St. Louis*, MN 19 Jun (RBJ). Ephemeral, as are many, was the Scissor-tailed Flycatcher in

Kenosha, WI 7 Jul (KD). Small numbers of Loggerhead Shrikes in nine Minnesota counties was near the average; Wisconsin reported 3 at *Roberts*, *St. Croix* 26 Jul (MP) and a pair in *Oconto* all summer (JSm). Michigan's only White-eyed Vireos were in *Hillsdale* and *Oakland*, while Wisconsin had one in *Dane* (AS) and another in *Green* (PAs). Officially casual but recently annual in Minnesota, a White-eyed was at *Great River Bluffs S.P.*, *Winona* 13–20 Jun (CRG, JWH et al.). A Bell's Vireo at *Tawas Pt.* 1 Jun (p. a., JD) was new to *Iosco*. Another county first, though within its usual Minnesota range, was the Bell's Vireo in *Meeker* 8 Jun (DMF).

Michigan celebrated Carolina Wrens in no fewer than 16 Lower Peninsula counties, but none were reported in Wisconsin. After only two summer records 1980–1996, and only one each summer for the next five years, single Carolina Wrens in six se. Minnesota locations were unexpected. South of their usual summer range in Minnesota were singing Hermit Thrushes in *Washington* 15 Jun (DCZ) and 17 Jul (KJB). As last summer, Northern Mockingbirds were in nine Michigan counties; Minnesota reported a pair nesting in *Dakota* (m. ob.), one at *Whipholt*, *Cass* 24 Jun (*vide* AXH), and a county first in *Fillmore* 29 Jun (JPE).

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

Tardy migrant warblers included a Cape May in *Bay*, MI 1 Jun (J&MH) and single Black-throated Blues at *Agassiz N.W.R.*, MN 1 Jun (JMJ) and *Cedar L.*, *Hennepin*, MN 3 Jun (SLC). Michigan reported Yellow-throated Warblers in *Berrien*, *Branch*, and *Van Buren*. Wisconsin had Yellow-throateds in *Grant* and *Sauk*, but none could be found in Minnesota after nesting there last year. This year's Kirtland's Warbler census recorded 1050 singing males, second only to last year's 1085. Six were in four U.P. counties and 1044 were in 11 Lower Peninsula counties. The production of young Kirtland's has been confirmed in the U.P. annually since 1996. No singing males were reported this year from either Wisconsin or Ontario; many thanks to AMB for this summary. Michigan had Prairie Warblers in *Allegan*, *Berrien*, and *Muskegon*, but more unusual were singles at *Tawas Pt.* 10 Jun (LA, MB, CSz, JS) and *Tuscola* 15–23 Jun (JAB). Following three reports last summer, the lack of Prairie Warblers in Wisconsin was disappointing. Further evidence of protracted spring warbler migration in Michigan was provided by a Palm Warbler at *Oscoda*, *Iosco* 7 Jun (CMS), Bay-breasted Warblers in *Cheboygan*

13 & 18 Jun (MS), and a Blackpoll Warbler at Manitou Is., *Keweenaw* 19 Jun (JY). Encouraging were Cerulean Warblers in 17 s. Michigan counties, plus *Arenac* 8 Jul (RW). Wisconsin reported average numbers, while Minnesota had Ceruleans as far w. and n. as *Kandiyohi*, *Pope*, *Otter Tail*, and *Mille Lacs*.

Michigan hosted single Worm-eating Warblers at Port Huron 3 Jun (SES) and Warren Woods S.P., *Berrien* 18–22 Jun (AMB, PCC, CF, JTW). Another late Michigan migrant was the Northern Waterthrush in *Wayne* 1 Jun (WGP). Wisconsin reported average numbers of Kentucky Warblers at Wyalusing S.P., but above average for Minnesota were 2 territorial males at Murphy-Hanrehan (BAF), another in *Blue Earth* (m. ob.), and a vagrant at Moorhead, *Clay* 9 Jun (audiotape DDW; also recorded in North Dakota). Michigan's only Kentucky Warbler was in *Hillsdale* (JR). Though possibly extending its Minnesota breeding range farther se., singing male Mourning Warblers in *Olmsted* 13 Jun (CBe), *Winona* 15 Jun (CB), and *Scott* 17 Jun (RMD) probably represented the tail end of spring migration. North of its usual breeding range in Wisconsin was a territorial Hooded Warbler in *Marathon* (MBe). Yet another late Michigan warbler was the Wilson's in *Alpena* 13 Jun (WNG). Yellow-breasted Chat was absent from the Region except for two Wisconsin reports: *Dane* (m. ob.) and n. of usual in *Outagamie* 4–5 Jul (SPe).

Undeniably cooperative was a singing Baird's Sparrow in *Polk*, MN 18 Jun+ (JPR, m. ob.). Another singing Baird's was discovered by the same observer while conducting surveys at a different *Polk* location 14 Jul. Single Henslow's Sparrows were at four Minnesota locations, including a first county occurrence in *Pope* 3–4 Jun (MCBS). Two White-crowned Sparrows visited W.P.B.O. 3 Jul (JTW). Providing Minnesota's 11th record was a male Painted Bunting in Wouri Twp., *St. Louis* 5 Jun (ph. DJ). An incursion of Dickcissels was readily apparent in Minnesota (47 counties) and Wisconsin (17 counties), but less so in Michigan (8 s. counties). Several reports of both White-winged and Red Crossbills from n. Minnesota and the U.P. raised expectations for a fall flight.

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Middlewestern Prairie



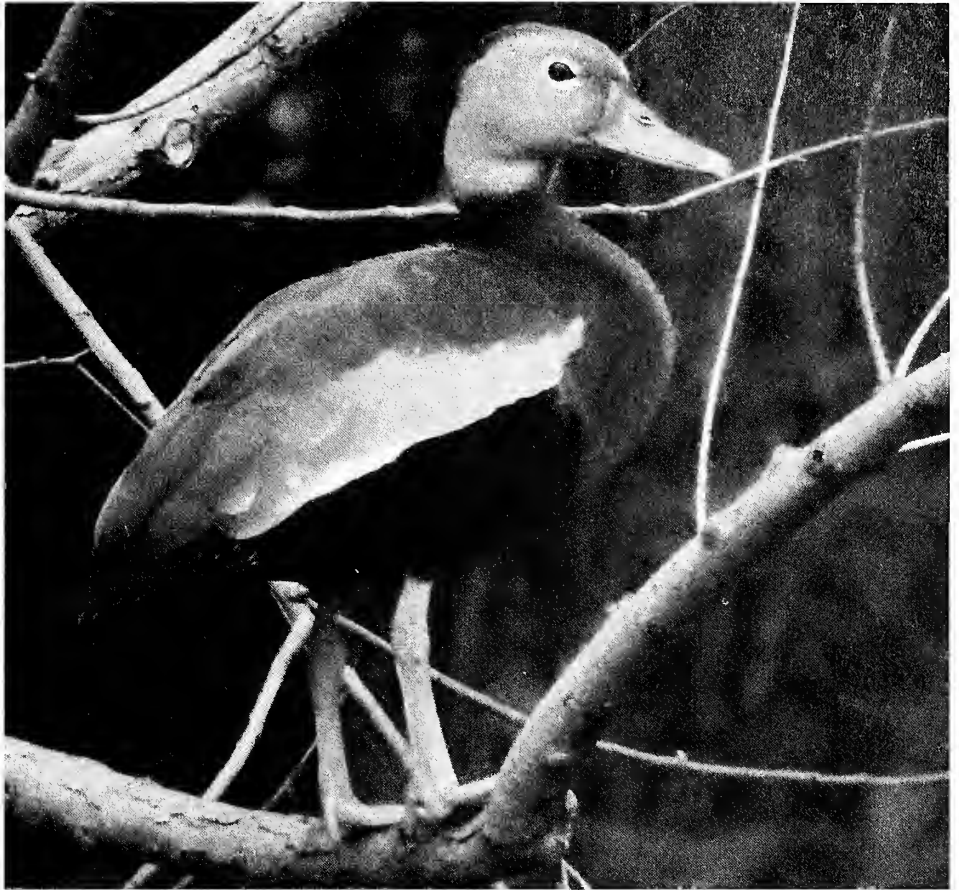
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It was a hot, hot summer across the Region. Precipitation, which primarily originated from thunderstorms, was spotty, producing excess moisture in some areas and deficits in others. Although many correspondents felt the season was interesting, few noted any trends.

Perhaps the most salient characteristic of the season was the presence of an unusually high number of ducks, bitterns, and Wilson's Phalaropes in the Region. These species, most of which normally breed in the prairie wetlands, may have been displaced from their preferred habitats by drought. The most notable example involved Wilson's Phalarope, which appeared in abundance and bred in some areas. Seasonal highlights included both Black-bellied and Fulvous Whistling-Ducks, at least one White-winged Dove, expansion of breeding Black-necked Stilts, and a Lazuli Bunting.

This will be the final report for the large Middlewestern Prairie Region. We have, over the years, received so much outstanding material, from so many hundreds of observers, that to paint on so broad a canvas as the states of Iowa, Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, plus the better parts of Kentucky and Ohio, has gradually come to mean a sacrifice of depth in this summary. To regain some of the nuance in our coverage, and to give all these fine states their due, the Region will be reorganized in the coming Volume 57. For the fall of 2002 (August through November), I will edit a Region called, simply, "Illinois & Indiana," the states from which I receive the bulk of communication each season and the states I know best. For those who submit reports from Iowa and Missouri, your regional editors will now be Robert I. Cecil (winter; wewarb@aol.com) James J. Dinsmore (summer; oldcoot@ias.tate.edu) William Eddleman (fall; weddema@biology.semo.edu) and Roger D. McNeill (spring; Roger.D.McNeill@mail.sprint.com) who will edit the "Iowa & Missouri" Region. For Kentucky birders, Brainard Palmer-Ball (Brainard.Palmer-Ball@mail.state.ky.us) and Chris Sloan (chris.sloan@comcast.net) will commence editing the "Tennessee & Kentucky" Region, while Robert Leberman will be editing records for the state of Ohio in its entirety, along with records from Pennsylvania and West Virginia. Please do give these new and veteran editors every assistance by submitting and interpreting your records and field notes for the fall and beyond. And many thanks for your hard work for this Region over the past 11 years!

Abbreviations: Carl. L. (Carlyle Lake, IL), G.L.N.T.C. (Great Lakes Naval Training Center, Lake, IL), H.B.S.P. (Headlands Beach State Park, OH), L. Cal. (Lake Calumet, Chicago); R.E.D.A. (Riverlands Environmental Demonstration Area, St. Charles, MO), S.C.R. (Squaw Creek N. W. R., MO); T.N.C.K.S. (The Nature Conservancy Kankakee Sands wetland, Newton, IN).



This Black-bellied Whistling-Duck was photographed in Delaware County, Indiana on 10 July 2002; it had been present since 30 July. In contrast to its congener, the Fulvous, appearances of this species out of range are on the distinct increase. This bird, if accepted as a wild vagrant, will provide Indiana with a first state record. *Photograph by Jeffrey J. McCoy.*

LOONS THROUGH VULTURES

As is typical, one to 5 Common Loons were reported in every state. Nine Red-necked Grebes were reported in n. Iowa this summer, where the largest concentration consisted of 5 at Grover's L., Hancock 29 Jun (LAS). Also in Hancock, IA, 2 ad. Western Grebes and a downy young were found at Eagle L. 23 Jul (JJD, WO, HZ), providing Iowa's first nesting record in a decade.

Double-crested Cormorant nests were reported in Illinois and Kentucky, but the largest numbers occurred in Iowa, where 31 nests were found at Coralville Res. 27 Jun (MCD). Following a two-year hiatus, the Neotropic Cormorant was again reported in the Region. This summer, a singleton was at Carl. L. 27-31 Jul (DKa, ph.).

American Bitterns were plentiful, with reports from every state except Kentucky and probable nesting at T.N.C.K.S., where one to 3 birds were seen regularly throughout the summer. Nesting Great Egrets were reported

in Illinois, Indiana, and Kentucky. Among the larger Great Egret concentrations were 1016 at L. Chautauqua N.W.R., IL 25 Jul (RBj, SBj), 900 in Jersey, IL 15 Jul (KAM), and 155 at Ottawa N.W.R., OH 7 Jul (EP). Active Snowy Egret nests were reported in Illinois and Kentucky; impressive counts including 150 ads. in Alexander, IL 12 Jun (VK) and 37 at Ottawa N.W.R., OH 2 Jul (JCo et al.). The latter tally is quite impressive for Ohio. Peak Little Blue Heron counts included 750 nests in St. Clair, IL 17 Jun (VK) and "hundreds" at the Lambert St. Louis International Airport 19 Jul (MT). Interestingly, at least 4 Little Blue young fledged from the L. Cal. site (WJM), which is substantially n. of other colonies. Breeding Cattle Egret concentrations included an estimated 1000 nests in St. Clair, IL 17 Jun (VK) and at least 200, and perhaps as many as 300, nests on L. Barkley, KY 14 Jun (BPB). The largest Black-crowned Night-Heron colonies included about 400 nests in St. Clair, IL 17 Jun (VK), 375 nests at L. Cal. (WJM), and 200+ active nests at L.



This Winter Wren nest was found at the nest in the Ritchie Ledges section of Cuyahoga Valley National Park, Summit County, Ohio 28 July 2002. Nest records for this species are few in the state. Photograph by Dwight W. Chasar.

Barkley, KY (BPB, AC). The most interesting Yellow-crowned Night-Heron report consisted of 4 young that were raised in a residential community of Columbus, OH (BW, m. ob.).

An imm. White Ibis visited the T.N.C.K.S. site 25-27 Jun (JHz, †JMc, ph., m. ob.) to provide Indiana's first record in seven years. Also quite unusual was an ad. Glossy Ibis at Fairmont City, IL 6-10 Jul (JM, CMM, DKA, FH). Less surprising, but still noteworthy, was a single White-faced Ibis near Ames, IA 2-6 Jun (MMc, JJD et al.), plus an unidentified *Plegadis* in *Winnebago*, IA 6 Jun (Robert Schwartz, *vide* JJD). Additional evidence of the northward expansion of Black Vultures was provided by nesting in *Coshocton*, OH (for the 2nd consecutive year), which is well n. of normal nesting range (JMi).

WATERFOWL THROUGH CRANES

If accepted as wild, a Black-bellied Whistling-Duck that visited a wetland in *Delaware*, IN 30 Jun—10 Jul (Betty Clark,

PJK, †EMH, †JMc, †Haw, ph., m. ob.), will constitute that state's first record. A Fulvous Whistling-Duck sporting a red leg band visited *Cumming*, *Warren*, IA 1-10 Jun (JGi), while an unbanded bird was at Grand Kankakee Marsh, *Lake*, IN 8 Jun (†JKC, SB, †KJB, †JMc, PJK, ph. m. ob.). The presence of summer Snow Geese continued this year, with one to 4 birds reported in four states. More remarkable was the discovery of Ross's Geese in two states. One, seen in Bigelow Marsh, *Holt* 1 Jun (DAE, PK), provided Missouri's first summer record; another at Union Slough N.W.R. 19 Jun—15 Jul (MCK) constituted the 3rd Iowa record in the past 15 years. Perhaps in response to the drought in the prairie states, summering ducks were more prevalent than normal; Gadwall, Northern Shoveler, Northern Pintail, Green-winged Teal, Redhead, and Ruddy Duck were all unusually common and widespread. This season, one to 4 Gadwall were reported in every state except Kentucky and Ohio. The

southernmost nesting Blue-winged Teal were in *Warren*, KY, where small numbers successfully bred (DRm). Breeding Northern Shovelers were more widespread than normal, with nesting reported in Illinois, Iowa, and Ohio. Northern Pintails were reported in every state except Kentucky, and nesting occurred in *Putnam*, IL where 2 ads. and a young bird were seen 21 Jul (DSh). Most noteworthy among several summer diving duck reports were a female Canvasback in *Christian*, KY 27 Jun—15 Jul (BPB, MMo, DRm), groups of up to 10 Redheads in several Iowa counties (MP, m. ob.), and a female Common Goldeneye at S.C.R. 1 Jun (DAE, PK). Unexpected were ad. male Common Mergansers at L. Cal. 8 Jun (CA) and in *Fulton*, IL 21 Jul (LH). Ruddy Ducks were unusually numerous and widespread. Reports from all six states included peak tallies of 120 in *Madison*, IL 5 Jun (FH), 42 at *Ottawa N.W.R.*, OH 2 Jun (EP et al.), and 34 at the *Brazil*, IN sewage ponds 9 Jun (SO, EM).

In part a result of the Osprey reintroduction program, nesting was reported in every state except Missouri. Perhaps most noteworthy among these reports were the 2 young raised at *Resthaven W.M.A.*, *Erie*, OH (Brian Barchus, Grant Rettig), which provided Ohio's first successful Osprey nesting in 60+ years (*vide* RHn). Expansion of Mississippi Kites continued, with summer reports in all six states. Reports of apparently nonbreeding birds included an out-of-range ad. and a first-year bird appearing in *Muhlenberg*, KY periodically throughout the summer (MMo, MV et al.). Bald Eagle breeding assessments were quite positive; nests were reported in 58 Iowa counties (BE), and a generally successful nesting season was registered in Kentucky (*vide* BPB). Most remarkable, among an array of nesting Northern Harrier reports from Iowa, Kentucky, and Missouri, was a study in *Peabody W.M.A.*, *Muhlenberg/Ohio*, KY that detected 26 nests (MV, MMo). The isolated ne. Illinois Swainson's Hawk population in *Kane* and *McHenry* contained three, or possibly four, territories this summer (RMO).

The Region's largest remaining Gray Partridge population is in Iowa, where several correspondents noted that the species was scarce this year (*vide* JJD). King Rail reports were up this summer, with one to 2 at *Killdeer Plains*, OH 1 & 8 Jun (TB et al.), one in *Morgan*, IL 12 Jun (KAM, CL), one in *Greene*, IN 2 & 15 Jun (LSt), one in *Monroe*, IN 9 & 17 Jun (MC, m. ob.), one in *Gibson*, IN 22 Jun (JMc, et al.), and one to 2 at T.N.C.K.S. 2 Jun—22 Jul (JHz, m. ob.). Virginia Rails nested in Illinois, Indiana, and Iowa, and 3

were heard in *Boone*, MO 4 Jun (BGo). Rare as a breeder in Missouri, the 2 Soras found in *Holt*, MO 24 Jul (DAE et al.) were noteworthy. It was another encouraging breeding season for Common Moorhens, with eight broods reported in Illinois and confirmed nesting in Indiana, Iowa, and Missouri. Breeding Sandhill Cranes were reported in all four n. states. The easternmost report came from Funk Bottoms W.M.A., *Wayne*, OH, where 2 young were produced (*vide* S. Snyder).

SHOREBIRDS

A tardy Black-bellied Plover in *Christian*, KY 19 Jun (DRm) established a new late spring departure date for that state. The 43 Semipalmated Plovers at Ottawa N.W.R., OH 2 Jun (EP et al.) constituted an unusually high count for this late date. The only Piping Plover report from the traditional w. Iowa breeding sites consisted of 2 at Port Neal 9 Jun (BFH). Migrant Piping Plovers were reported as follows: an ad. at Waukegan, IL 7 Jul (SH) and 2 at Horseshoe L., *Madison*, IL 22 Jul (CMM, DKa, KAM m. ob.). A significant post-breeding Killdeer accumulation occurred at in *Montgomery*, OH 21 Jul, where 415 were counted (DDi). It was a remarkable summer for Black-necked Stilts. Breeding activity at traditional sites included 8 ads. and 6 young in *Alexander*, IL 21 Jul (KAM et al.) and an unsuccessful effort in *Fulton*, KY (DRm, HC). The most interesting breeding effort occurred in Indiana, where **Black-necked Stilts** were previously accidental. Four ads. and a nest containing two eggs were discovered in *Sullivan* 14 & 15 Jun (†MRB, LSt, DGo, LAC, ph.) to provide that state's first nesting record. This nest proved unsuccessful, but from 30 Jul through 1 Aug, 2 ads. and 3 juvs. were observed at another site in the same county (†MRB). Reports of non-breeding stilts included a pair in Santa Fe, IL 1-6 Jun (DKa), 2 at Grand Kankakee Marsh, *Lake*, IN 14-17 Jun (BGr, †m. ob., ph.), 2 in *Gibson*, IN 22 Jun (ph., †JMc et al.), and one in *St. Charles*, MO 4 Jul (CMM, JPM). American Avocets were decidedly scarce this summer; the largest tally consisted of 7 at Michigan City Harbor, IN 20 Jul (BGr). The 1000 Lesser Yellowlegs at Chautauqua N.W.R., IL 23 Jul (RTC), provided the season's maximum tally. Willets were widespread, with reports from every state except Missouri. Upland Sandpiper reports were up this summer, with multiple records from all four n. states. The summer's only Whimbrels came from the Indiana lakefront, where 9 birds were recorded; the only Hudsonian

Godwit appeared at Pipe Creek W.M.A., OH 14 Jul (SZ, GL).

A record-early fall Ruddy Turnstone arrived at Union Slough N.W.R., IA 10 Jul (BKP, LJP). Inland Red Knots are rare anywhere in the Region; consequently, the ad. at Chautauqua N.W.R., IL 24 Jul (RTC) was most unexpected. Three tardy Sanderlings lingered in *Ashtabula*, OH until 7 Jun (JSe). Peak counts of the smaller calidrids included 1377 Semipalmated Sandpipers at Chautauqua N.W.R., IL 25 Jul (RBj & SBj), 1000 Least Sandpipers at Horseshoe L., *Madison*, IL 22 Jul (KAM), and 4000 Pectoral Sandpipers at Chautauqua N.W.R., IL 24 Jul (RTC). The 28 White-rumped Sandpipers in *Paulding*, OH 8 Jun (BW et al.) provided a fine late spring count for Ohio. A wildly out-of-season alternate-plumaged Dunlin was at Miller Beach, IN 4 & 13 Jul (JMc, JKC). Good Stilt Sandpiper numbers were reported in most states, the peak tally consisting of 144 birds at Pickerel Creek W.M.A., OH 30 Jul (VF). A Ruff, believed to have been a molting male, was at Red Rock W.M.A., IA 28 Jul (†JSi, †MCD, †MP), and an ad. female was at Pickerel Creek W.M.A., OH 25 Jul—early Aug (CHo, †JWH, †CCS). It was a marvelous summer for Wilson's Phalaropes. In Iowa, where the largest summer numbers in 18 years were reported (JJD), the peak count was 25 at Red Rock W.M.A. 28 Jul (JSi), and in Ohio there was a surprising number of migrants (RHn), with possible nesting at Big Island W.M.A. (TSh). The center of activity was apparently Indiana, where a nest containing four eggs was found at T.N.C.K.S. 15 Jun (P&JK) to provide that state's first nesting record in 60 years. There was also evidence of nesting in *Allen* and *Gibson*, Indiana.

GULLS THROUGH TERNS

Laughing Gulls were scarce, with reports only in Indiana and Kentucky. An ad. Franklin's Gull at Carl. L. 2 Jul (DKa) was unusual, as were 295 Bonaparte's Gulls at Port Clinton, OH 29 Jul (VF). The Des Plaines, IL rooftop Ring-billed Gull colony reported last summer was active again this summer, with an estimated 200-250 nesting pairs on two buildings (AA, VK, MHe). Perhaps the season's most surprising gull report involved a carefully studied ad. California Gull at G.L.N.T.C. 13 Jun (†DBJ, BS, DDa, et al), which provided an anomalous summer record for the Region. Rounding out the summer gull tally sheet was a third-year Lesser Black-backed Gull at Conneaut, OH 26 Jul (CHo).

Caspian Terns continued their recent expansion, with reports from all four n. states

and peak counts of 40 ads. at L. Cal. 23 Jun (WJM), 17 in *Worth*, IA 5 Jun (RG), and 13 at Miller Beach, IN 7 Jul (MTo). Eighteen nests at the G.L.N.T.C. Common Tern colony produced 44 eggs and 26 confirmed fledglings (DDa, ph.). Productivity of the Region's Least Terns was spotty. Reports included 65+ nesting pairs along the Ohio R., in *Pope*, IL (PB), 56 nests and 27 fledglings at the *Gibson*, IN colony (JSC), a maximum of 5 at the traditional MidAmerican Energy plant in Council Bluffs, IA, but no indication of breeding success there (MP, BPr, BKP, LJP), and a nest with two eggs at R.E.D.A. 30 Jun (DRg). Small to modest numbers of Black Terns were reported across the Region, but the only indication of breeding came from *Hancock*, IA, where some 100 birds, some of which were carrying food, were seen 6 Jul (PHe).

DOVES THROUGH VIREOS

Most states reported that the Eurasian Collared-Dove expansion is continuing. Although **White-winged Doves** were reported in Illinois and Missouri, the only documented report came from Clear Lake, IA 29 Jul (†PH, †MP et al.). An increase in cuckoo reports suggested that numbers of both species were up this season. Summer Short-eared Owl reports included one in *Ringgold*, IA 5 Jun (Mel Moe, *vide* BE), 11 in *Sullivan*, IN 25 Jul (LSt), and 2 in *Daviess*, MO (TMc, no date given). The only Common Nighthawk reports came from Illinois, where observers in three different parts of the state lamented the apparent decrease in numbers. Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were restricted to the n. counties in Iowa, where this species is a rare breeder, and to a single report from Lost Mound N.W.R., *Jo Daviess*, IL 22 Jun (VK et al.).

A very confused Olive-sided Flycatcher appeared at Illinois Beach S. P., IL 7 Jul (AS, SH). Nesting-period Alder Flycatchers were reported at Illinois Beach S. P., IL 22 Jul—3 Aug (EW), at Volvo Bog State Natural Area, IL 23 Jun (GAW), at Rock Cut S. P., IL 26 Jun (DW), and in *Nobel*, IN 12 Jun (Haw et al.). As expected, Western Kingbirds were reported in Illinois (nesting), Iowa, and Missouri. Most unexpected, however, was Western Kingbird in *Butler*, OH 1-20 Jul, where this species is casual (Tommy & Di Schroeder, †JWH, ph., m. ob.). Scissor-tailed Flycatcher reports e. of the Mississippi R. included a male in *Pope*, IL 24 Jun (AD), an imm. in *Massac*, IL 7 Jul (FB), and, most remarkably, two nesting pairs in w. Kentucky, where this species is casual. A male of the first Kentucky pair was discovered in s. *Livingston* 1 Jun

(RRw) and the nest located 17 Jun (DRo). This nest fledged 5 young about 24 Jun. A 2nd male was discovered near this nest 17 Jun (MMo, et al.). The 2nd nest was found about 3 km from the first, but in *Lyon* below Barkley Dam 29 Jun (CP, HC). Three young fledged from this nest (m. ob.). Who says lightning never strikes in the same place twice? An impressive count of 22 Bell's Vireos was recorded along the Cedar Valley Bike Path in *Black Hawk*, IA (TSt, no date given). Late northbound (?) Blue-headed Vireos were reported in *Bullitt*, KY 16 Jun (DO) and in *Allen*, IN 12 Jun (Haw), and a Philadelphia Vireo was still in *Clay*, IA until 3 Jun (LAS), a normal date for this late migrant.

SWALLOWS THROUGH FINCHES

Late summer swallow concentrations included 1500 Tree and 2000 Bank Swallows at Killdeer Plains W.M.A., OH 15 Jul (RRy). In Iowa, three Red-breasted Nuthatch reports constituted the largest summer count since 1985 (*fide* JJD), and 5, including a juv., were at the traditional Kentucky breeding site in *Wolfe* 7 Jul (FR). Bewick's Wrens were reported in *Taylor*, KY 9 Jun (BPB), *Brown*, IL 12 Jun (KAM), *Lee*, IA 15 Jun (MCD), and in *Washington*, KY 20 Jun (BPB); however, the only confirmed nesting occurred in *Scott*, KY, where a pair successfully raised young (LB). Peak Sedge Wren tallies included 20 at Carl. L. 19-30 Jul (DKa) and 17 in *Butler*, OH 28 Jun (MBu). A careful survey of the Ritchie Ledges section of Cuyahoga Valley N. P., *Summit*, OH yielded one Winter Wren nest and six Hermit Thrush nests (DWC, SZ, ph.). Several correspondents noted the abundance and nesting success of Cedar Waxwings. The season's only large count consisted of a longshore flight of 1700 migrants at Indiana Dunes S. P. 1 Jun (BGr).

An ad. male Tennessee Warbler in *Tuscarawas*, OH 20 Jul was believed to have been an early fall migrant (ES). Few correspondents bother counting Yellow Warblers; consequently the 48 birds logged in *Holt*, MO 1 Jun (DAE et al.) are worth mentioning. A number of migrant warblers lingered well into the nesting season; these included a singing Black-throated Blue in *Du Page*, IL 16 Jun (†UG), a Yellow-rumped in *Columbia*, IL 15 Jun (KAM), a singing Bay-breasted in *Columbus*, OH 17 Jun (JGr), and a singing Blackpoll at North Chagrin Metro Park, OH 12 Jun (KMe). Two different singing Blackburnian Warblers were heard at Indiana Dunes S. P. 15 Jun (JKC, SBa et al.), where this species has nested for the past five years. Two Blackburnians were also detected at Stebbins

Gulch, *Geauga*, OH 6 Jul (HP), also an established breeding site. A recently fledged Black-and-white Warbler in *Warren*, IA 4 Jul (JSi) suggested local nesting. An impressive 21 Prothonotary Warblers, along with evidence of breeding, were found in *Pershing S.P.*, MO 2 Jul (SK). Swainson's Warbler reports were confined to three traditional breeding locations in Kentucky. Mourning Warblers nested at *Illinois Beach S.P.*, where two territories were observed in Jul and a fledgling was seen 3-10 Aug (EW), the state's first confirmed nesting since 1985 (*fide* EW).

Most interesting was a towhee discovered at *Hitchcock W.M.A.*, IA 11 Jun that displayed characters of a Spotted x Eastern Towhee hybrid (MO). Following last summer's discovery of a Bachman's Sparrow population at Fort Campbell, TN-KY, additional studies have been conducted. As part of the research, some 18 birds were banded, and at least one active nest was found on the Tennessee side (D. Moss and J. Giocomo). One Bachman's was also found in *Calloway*, KY 28 Jun (DRm); this is an area in which Bachman's occurred in the late 1980s. In addition, out-of-range Bachman's Sparrows were reported in *St. Clair*, MO 17 & 26 Jun (SK) and in *Randolph*, MO 7 Jul (SV). Peak Grasshopper Sparrow tallies included 50+ at the *Woodbury W.M.A.*, OH reclaimed stripmine 3 Jul (RRy), 39 at *Urbana*, IL 30 Jun (RTC), 30 in *Prairie S.P.*, MO 22 Jun (RMc), and 28 at the Hawthorn Mine, *Sullivan*, IN 28 Jun (J&SH et al.). The Region's Henslow's Sparrow population appears to be thriving. The largest concentration, among numerous reports, consisted of 384 singing males counted during surveys at Big Oaks N.W.R., IN (Jason Lewis, *fide* RHe). Last summer's White-throated Sparrow nesting in downtown Chicago was apparently no fluke, as two pairs were found in Chicago 23 Jun (EW, KW). Interestingly, a White-throated was also present in downtown Indianapolis 28 Jun and 3 Jul (CHe, MHo). While searching for White-throated Sparrow nests, observers discovered a most unseasonal White-crowned Sparrow in downtown Chicago 23 Jun (EW, KW).

The season's major surprise consisted of a male **Lazuli Bunting**, which visited a *Scott*, IL feeder 24-25 Jun (ph. Charlene Robinson). At the recently established E. St. Louis, IL Painted Bunting nest site, the male was seen 5 & 9 Jun and the pair 7 Jul, but the nest was not located (DKa). A pair of Painted Buntings was also reported in nearby *St. Charles*, MO 16 Jun and 8 Aug (JPM, MTh et al.). Triple-digit Dickcissel counts were made in three

states; the peak tallies included 240 near Allerton Park, IL 23 Jun (RTC) and 226 at *Prairie S.P.*, MO 22 Jun (RMc). Several correspondents noted that it was a fine summer for Bobolinks. Brewer's Blackbirds nested at *Illinois Beach S.P.*, with 19 birds present 27 Jul and a nest with 6 young discovered 8 Jun (AS, EW). The Region's only Red Crossbill consisted of an ad. male that visited a *Valparaiso*, IN feeder 30 Jun (Helen Dancey). Eurasian Tree Sparrows appear firmly entrenched in se. Iowa; this summer a pair near Burlington was working on their 3rd clutch in early Jul (PL).

ADDENDA

The following records should be appended to the spring 2002 report. An ad. California Gull, seen at *Fairport Harbor*, OH 11 Mar (RHn, SW, BF), was accepted by Ohio's records committee. A male **Painted Bunting** was found dead in *Elkhart*, IN 25 Apr 2002 (Elwood Culp). This specimen, preserved at *St. Mary's College*, constitutes the 3rd state record.

CORRIGENDUM

The fall 2001 juv. Ruff reported on the Mississippi R. in *Carlisle*, KY 8-9 Sep (*N.A.B.* 56: 58) was actually seen 7-8 Sep.

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(MTh), Michael Topp (MT0), Sarah Vasse, Mark Vukovich, Sandra Wagner, Eric Walters, Bill Whan, Dan Williams, Geoff A. Williamson, Ken Wysocki, Sean Zadar, and Hank Zaletel. Hundreds of observers contributed to this report, and not all of those contributing records could be listed individually here; all have our thanks.



Central Southern



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The June-July report, which incorporates late spring and early fall migration as well as the nesting season, is often memorable for climatic factors, from drought to excessive rainfall to tropical weather. This season, none of these phenomena seems to have prevailed. While June was hot, July moderated some-

what, and if subnormal rainfall continued over much of the Region, July was near normal. There was no tropical weather at all, though next season's report will tell another tale.

Nonetheless, if lacking in dramatic forces or trends, the season was by no means without interest, and of course there were the inevitable early and late migrants, individuals out of season or out of range, and some evidence of range expansion. Breeding Bird Survey routes continue to add to our knowledge, and now Alabama has begun its own

breeding bird atlas program. We await the results from that diverse and interesting state. The only reports of pelagic efforts were from Louisiana.

Our Region will be changed a bit, beginning with next season's issue. Western and central Tennessee will now be part of a new Region, "Tennessee & Kentucky," whose editors will be Chris Sloan for Tennessee (chris.sloan@comcast.net) and Brainard Palmer-Ball for Kentucky (Brainard.Palmer-Ball@mail.state.ky.us). We welcome, on the other hand, our Region's inclusion of north-easternmost Alabama, previously a part of the Appalachian Region. Welcome, Alabama mountains and foothills!

Abbreviations: A.A.S. (Arkansas Audubon Society), L.O.S.B.R.C. (Louisiana Ornithological Society Bird Records Committee).

LOONS THROUGH ANHINGA

A Common Loon in a flooded field in Lake, TN 2 Jun (JRW) must have felt very much out of place, and one in Marshall, AL (RAR, LBR) 23-25 Jun was also very late. The only pelagic trip into the Gulf was an overnight venture out of Venice, LA 17-18 Jul. On that trip, a Cory's Shearwater, about the 6th record for the state (not including sight records), was seen 72 km off the S. Pass of the Mississippi R. 18 Jul (SWC, DLD, MM, CS, PC, JC), and over the two days, a minimum of 28 Wilson's, 6 Band-rumped, and 8 **Leach's Storm-Petrels** were counted. Recent trips seem to have established that Leach's Storm-Petrel is regular well offshore in mid-summer, and it has been shown that Band-rumped Storm-Petrel is regular over deep water in early to mid-summer. It is interesting to see, sometimes in the same flock, one

storm-petrel (Wilson's) that is "wintering" on the Gulf of Mexico, another (Leach's) that breeds in the North Atlantic, and another (Band-rumped) that breeds on islands off western Africa.

As is always the case in late summer, a number of species strayed far inland, usually following nesting. These included a Brown Pelican in *Benton*, MS 29 May—13 Jun (ph. JW), spectacularly far inland, while single Neotropic Cormorants in *Miller*, AR 4 Jul (CM, EB, LDN, KN) and in *Rapides*, LA the following day (JaH) were also well inland, though not unprecedented. As many as 5 Anhingas at Noxubee N.W.R. Apr—Jul+ (TS, MS, SJD) likely nested. One was also in *Shelby*, TN 13 Jul (JRW).

HERONS THROUGH HAWKS

Late or summering American Bitterns, the subject of recent concern because of declining numbers, raised the spectre of nesting: one 10 Jun in *Sharkey*, MS (SS), another in *Vermilion*, LA 30 Jun (JK, CF, KF); 2 (ad., juv.) in *Miller*, AR 22 Jun (CM, m. ob.) provided the first evidence of nesting there. Another was in *Cameron*, LA 27 Jul (JK, HPu), an unprecedented date. Tricolored Herons, which tend to hug the coast, wandered 27 Jul to Noxubee N.W.R., MS (SJD, JD) and *Lonoke*, AR (KN, LDN), as well as to *Ashley*, AR 28 & 30 Jul (JC; LL). A massive Cattle Egret colony in *E. Baton Rouge*, LA contained 3000 birds 28 Jul (DC), while three seen 144 km offshore 9 Jun (DNP) were presumably migrating across the Gulf, over which they are a common sight later in the year. Mostly small numbers of White Ibis were reported from n. Mississippi, but over 70 were present at Noxubee N.W.R., MS in Jun (TS, DR, SJD), though apparently only a few bred. Ten in *White*, AR 21 Jun+, seen carrying nest material (KN, LDN), represented the first nesting outside of the sw. part of the state. Thirteen Glossy Ibis were seen 21 Jul in *Sharkey*, MS (SJD), and post-breeding Roseate Spoonbills were noted in *Noxubee*, MS 26-31 Jul (DR, SJD) and *Ashley*, in se. Arkansas 28 & 30 Jul (JC; LL). Wood Storks were at Noxubee N.W.R. 10 Jun—31 Jul (DR, TS, SJD), peaking at 184 on the latter date, 4-5 were reported 29 Jun—9 Jul from *Lowndes*, MS (JP, DP, SJD, PB), and 3 were found in *Miller*, AR 11 Jul (CM); the largest concentration reported was easily the 540 in *Iberville*, LA 28 Jul (JK, HP, MG, AG).

The continuing expansion of Black-bellied Whistling Duck to the e. and n. was documented by 5 in *Shelby*, TN 8 Jun (JRW) and 2 on 16 & 24 Jun in *Raceland*, LA (LR); sight-

ings have become almost commonplace in the vicinity of nearby Luling, LA. There were 2 reports of Fulvous Whistling-Ducks in w. Tennessee: *Lake* 2 Jun (JRW) and in *Desha*, AR 20 Jul (KN, LDN). Among interesting records of ducks that clearly were not cripples were the following: 3 Gadwall in *Desha*, AR 22 Jul (KN, LDN); a pair of Mallards in *Clay*, AR 14 Jun (GH); and paired Mottled Ducks in *Miller*, AR 14 Jul (CM) and *Desha*, AR 20 Jul (KN, LDN). Blue-winged Teal bred widely: 15, including at least 4 young, were in *Dyer*, *Lake*, and *Shelby*, TN over the period (JRW, WGC, KL, BL), a female with 8 young 1 Jun was in *Miller*, AR (CM), an ad. with 10 young was seen 8 Jun in *Colbert*, AL (DJS), and two pairs with 8 young were in *Desha*, AR 22 Jun (KN, LDN). There were 12 Northern Pintails in *White*, AR 15 Jun (KN, LDN), 10 very late Redheads in *White*, AR 15 Jun (KN, LDN), and 2 more 22 Jun in *Prairie*, AR. Also unexpected were the 20 Ring-necked Ducks 8 Jun in *Marshall*, AL (RAR, LBR), nesting Hooded Mergansers in *Dyer*, *Lake*, and *Shelby*, all in w. Tennessee (JRW, WGC, KL, BL, MAG), as well as in *Dallas* (SER) and *Limestone* (DRC, RC), AL in Jun. Finally, several reports of summering Ruddy Ducks were of interest, including 150 on a minnow farm in *Prairie*, AR 22 Jun (KN, LDN), 74 in *Lake*, TN 5 Jun (WGC, KL, MCT et al.), four pairs in *Desha* on the same day (KN, LDN), one in *Caddo*, LA 30 Jun (JfT, JnT), a pair in *Miller*, AR 15 Jun—7 Jul (CM, m. ob.), and 2 males in *Vermilion* 27 Jul (JK, HP).

Records of Swallow-tailed Kites from the edges of range included sightings in *Rapides*, LA 4 (JaH) & 29 Jun (JuH), and two reports from ne. Mississippi: 5 in *Marion* 23 Jul (TS) and one in *Clay* three days later (LB). Mississippi Kites were also at the periphery of their nesting range in the Starkville area of Mississippi in Jun and Jul, including 2 in *Noxubee* (TS), 22 in *Neshoba* (JMcG, JM), and 4 in *Clay* (TS). Two in *Malvern*, AR through the period were the first pair observed there in the breeding season in 28 years (MP, HP). The reports of summering Bald Eagles included single birds in *Oktibbeha* (juv.) and *Noxubee* (ad.), MS (TS, SJD, DR), and *Rapides*, LA, plus a nesting pair that fledged 2 young in *Ashley*, AR in Jul (LL). Four were in as many separate locations in *Dyer* and *Lake*, TN (WGC, WPP, WRP, KL, BL). A Northern Harrier in *Shelby*, TN 8 Jun (JRW) was very late for a species that is only a winter resident there. Leif Anderson found 9 Sharp-shinned Hawks in five nw. Arkansas locations in *Fulton*, *Pope*, and *Crawford*, with three probable nestings involved. In addition, a single bird was seen 6 Jul in *Newton*,

AR (MMI). According to the new A.A.S. field list, such occurrences are "very rare." Two reports of Cooper's Hawks were received from Arkansas: 13 Jun in *Washington* (JN, MMI) and 27 Jul in *Benton* (MMI, RD, JN); elsewhere in the Region, numbers were near normal. There were two records of Swainson's Hawks, which are very uncommon in nw. Arkansas in the breeding season: 11 (MMI, JH) & 27 Jul (MMI, RD, JN; 3 ads.) in *Benton*. An ad. Golden Eagle 2 Jun in *Cherokee*, AL (JFF, EH) established the 2nd Jun record for the state. A Merlin was remarkably early in *Gibson*, TN 31 Jul (MAG), and the same can be said of a Peregrine Falcon 19 Jul in *Memphis* (MGW).

GALLINULES THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

Purple Gallinules nested for the 4th year in a row at Noxubee N. W. R., MS, where 2 ads. produced a single young (TS, MS, SJD). A Common Moorhen, a 5th local record, was observed building a nest in the same location (TS, MS, LW, RW). Another 6 were seen 22 Jun in *Desha*, AR (KN, LDN), and there were 12 American Coots, including 2 on nests, at the same spot.

Of shorebird records submitted, representing mostly late spring or early fall migrants, only the highlights can be summarized here. American Golden-Plovers, uncommon fall migrants in the Region, were seen at *Ensley Bottoms*, *Shelby*, TN on three occasions 29 Jun—26 Jul (JWR), and there was a Piping Plover on nearby *Dacus Bar*, presumably southbound, 28 Jul (JWR), while another was in *Lake*, TN the same day (KC, BJ, JuN). A total of 6 was seen in *Prairie*, AR 27-31 Jul (KN, LDN). In the rice fields of *Acadia* and *Vermilion*, LA a 30 Jun census turned up 535 Black-necked Stilts (JK, CF, KF), and in w. Tennessee, Wilson had 171 ads. with 134 young and 35 nests still active 14 Jul; there were several other significant w. Tennessee records. Sightings of at least two pairs in *Sharkey*, MS in early Jun (SS, DT) were suggestive of nesting, and there were 6 in *Ashley*, AR 28 Jul (JC). A Whimbrel in *Lake*, TN 6 Jul (JRW, NM, KL) was an early southbound migrant, and another 14 Jul in *Lowndes*, AL (LFG) was unusual for this inland locale. The Nichols submitted five records each of migrating Ruddy Turnstones and Sanderlings 27-31 Jul from *Lonoke*, *Prairie*, and *White*, AR. A Least Sandpiper in *Oktibbeha*, MS 29 Jun (SJD) was the earliest ever there by a week, and 8 in *Acadia*, LA the next day (JK, CF, KF) were similarly early; numbers had exceeded 1500 by 31 Jul in *Shelby*, TN (JRW). Records

of northbound White-rumped Sandpipers included 2 in *Oktibbeha* 12 Jun (TS), by nine days the latest ever for Schiefer's seven-county area around Starkville, and an impressive 3200 Pectoral Sandpipers were counted in Ensley Bottoms, *Shelby*, TN 31 Jul (JRW). A single Dunlin on the very early date of 29 Jun in *White*, AR (KN) was noteworthy. Perhaps the most interesting shore-bird of the season was a **Ruff** (Reeve) in *Shelby*, TN 20 Jul (JRW). Other records of note included the earliest-ever Short-billed Dowitcher for the Starkville area, 8 Jul in *Oktibbeha* (TS) and an ad. Red-necked Phalarope in *Shelby*, TN 20 Jul (JRW). Two Wilson's Snipe 16 Jun in *Lake*, TN (WGC, KL, BL) were late, but individuals seen 21 Jul in *Lowndes*, AL (LRG) and 30 Jul in *Lonoke*, AR (KN, LDN) were at least a month early.

GULLS THROUGH CUCKOO

A Ring-billed Gull on Columbus L., *Clay*, MS 22 Jun (SJD) was the latest ever by 25 days and the first "summer" record, and there were 2 records from w. Tennessee: *Lake* 7 Jul and *Shelby* 20 Jul (JRW). Although the Metairie, LA roof-top Gull-billed Tern colony contained 100-200 pairs this season, it is not known how much construction may have affected reproductive success there (RDP). Up to 5 Caspian Terns reached w. Tennessee (JRW), and there was one in *Miller*, AR 22 Jun (CM). Also unusual for w. Tennessee was a Common Tern 2 Jun in *Lake* (JRW). There were two records of Sooty Tern, normally not seen from shore, in *Mobile*, AL 1 Jun (PM) and 8 Jul (KK).

Eurasian Collared-Doves continued to turn up in new places, with one in *Cleburne*, AR 29 Jul (BV), at least one in *Weakley*, TN (MCT), and another in *DeSoto*, MS 3 Jul (WRP, CHB). **White-winged Doves**, in what would be the first breeding record for Alabama, apparently nested at Foley in Jul (*fide* HEH), and there were breeding-season records in *St Mary*, LA 23 Jun (RSB) and in *Pope*, AR in early to late Jul (TM, LA). Two Common Ground-Doves 14 Jun in *Cleburne*, AL (JFF) were unusual for the location and the season, and one in *Lowndes*, MS 5 Jul (PB) established the first summer record and only the 6th ever for that area. Apparently territorial Black-billed Cuckoos were seen and heard in Arkansas in *Logan* 2 Jun and *Fulton* 23 & 29 Jun (LA). There was another 2 Jun record from Arkansas, in this case in *Poinsett* (KN, LDN), and one was in *Lake*, TN 8 Jun (JRW).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH WAXWINGS

Several records of apparently nesting Willow Flycatchers, always noteworthy, were received, three from w. Tennessee (*Dyer*, *Lake*, *Shelby*) 2 & 29 Jun (JRW), one from *Cherokee*, AL 2 Jun (JFF, EH)—there is no confirmed breeding record for that state—and four from Arkansas: *Boone* and *Izard* 7, 21, & 23 Jun, and 10 Jul, involving at least a dozen birds (JS, PS, MP, HP, DJ, LA, BH). The last record, from *Boone*, was of a nest containing four eggs (BH). There were three Western Kingbird nests that produced 8 young within 300 m of each other in *Shelby*, TN (JRW), and an unprecedented 13 nesting pairs were found at Fort Smith, AR (BB, TB, SB) within a km of the Oklahoma border. Scissor-tailed Flycatchers nested in *Noxubee*, MS in Jun (RW et al.), establishing the 2nd area breeding record, and nesting pairs was seen 2 Jun in *Poinsett*, AR (KN, LDN), at a new site in *Hale*, AL 22 Jun (SER), and near Wynnburg, TN (NM, KL, BL, MCT) throughout the period. Single birds 1 Jun and 2 Jul in *Rapides* (JaH) and 3 Jul in Stuttgart, AR (KR) may also have been breeding.

Of Bell's Vireos there were two Arkansas records: 7 Jun and 10 Jul in *Boone* (JS, PS, MP, HP), a nest with three young, and 22 Jun in *Fulton* (LA), a nest in a bluebird box. A Blue-headed Vireo in *Crenshaw* 19 Jun (DMW) represented the first summer occurrence for the Interior Coastal Plain of Alabama; likewise, two Alabama records of Warbling Vireo were quite notable: a singing male in *Jackson* 11 Jun (JTP), plus a pair and another territorial male in *Crenshaw* 19 Jun (DMW, PB). Multiple Tree Swallows nested in at least four Alabama locations: 4 Jun in *Limestone* (JCa, JW), 7 Jun in *Cherokee* (JFF, EH), 23 Jun in *Winston* (JJ), and 26 Jun in *Etowah* (MD). Three Bank Swallows colonies numbering about 300 birds were found 15 Jul in *Desha*, AR, where they have nested for at least the last three years (TA), and Cliff Swallows continue to breed at new sites in Alabama and to increase in numbers. This season, two colonies in *Cherokee* (JTF, EH) totalled 800 birds, and 500 were at a colony in *Shelby* (HHK).

A Brown Creeper seen in *Lowndes* 1 Jul (SJD), far from normal nesting range, established the first summer record for Mississippi. House Wrens nested in at least four locations in the vicinity of Birmingham, AL, where it is a rare in the breeding season (RRS, MBS, JS, KS, HHK, MH, PAB). Eight records of Cedar Waxwings were submitted, all but one from

n. Arkansas. No certain evidence of local nesting was obtained, but scattered pairs are regularly seen in summer in the Fayetteville area (JN).

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

While a Golden-winged Warbler 28 Jul in *Jefferson* (RRS, MBS) was earliest ever in fall for Alabama, a Tennessee Warbler on the L.S.U. campus 13 Jun (CW) was extremely late. A Yellow Warbler 8 Jun in *Newton*, AR was found at a stop on the Compton B.B.S. route where it has been located every year; otherwise it is local and uncommon. Of Chestnut-sided Warblers, which breed locally and sparingly in n. and nw. Arkansas, there were eight reports submitted, six by Anderson, and all of single birds except for 6 singing males and 3 young found in the Sassafras Knob area of Ozark N.F. in *Newton*, AR (DR). The other records consisted of 6 single birds found by Anderson in *Izard*, *Pope*, *Newton*, *Fulton*, and *Baxter*, all but one a singing male, and one ad. male on five dates in Jun in *Newton* (MML). A male Blackburnian Warbler 1 Jun in Fayetteville, AR (MML) was surely a late migrant. The Schiefers submitted four reports of summering Swainson's Warblers in *Oktibbeha* (3) and *Winston*, MS (1), and Donata Roome found the remarkable total of 60 Swainson's nests in se. Louisiana as part of her Ph.D. research.

Reports of Bachman's Sparrow came from two locations in *McNairy*, TN 15 Jun (JRW), as well as from *Benton*, MS 12 Jul (WRP, VBR et al.). Eighteen singing males in *Covington* and *Escambia*, AL 30 Jun (MSG) established an all-time maximum for the state. Five reports of Lark Sparrow came from n. Mississippi and involved at least 29 individuals, including 8 ads. and one juv. in *Lowndes* 22 Jun (SJD, PB, KB), and 13 in *Monroe* on 13 Jul (WP, MG). A young bird was seen 28 Jul in *Washington*, AR (MML), and there were two w. Tennessee records, from *Hardeman* 2 Jun (VBR, CHB) and *Weakley* 5 Jun (MCT, DM). Jackson reported that nesting was expanding in Alabama as well, and a state maximum of 34 was recorded 28 Jun in *Dale* (PDK). Several Grasshopper Sparrows nested in *Clay*, MS from May+ (TS, PB, KB, SJD). On 22 Jun, 11 ads. were noted at this site, plus a nest with 5 young, probably the first ever found in Mississippi. At least 3 singing male Henslow's Sparrows were on territories near Fayetteville, AR during the period (JN); birds had been present here since 19 Apr. A single Dark-eyed Junco 20 Jul in *Grenada*, MS (DW, JR) was far out of range, and a White-

throated Sparrow that gave its song some 15 times in *Lauderdale*, AL 28 Jun (PDK) established the first summer record for the Tennessee Valley.

A dozen reports of Painting Bunting, all from the periphery of its range in Mississippi, Alabama, and w. Tennessee, were received. Of the Mississippi records, one, of 2 birds, came from *Tunica*, MS in the extreme nw. corner (WRP, CHB), four were from *Sharkey*, *Issaquena*, and *Yazoo* (SS), in the w.-cen. (Delta) part of the state (two nests located), and the remaining were from *Noxubee* and *Lowndes* in the Starkville area. A pair was in *Dallas*, AL 7 Jun (SER), and singles were seen in *Marengo* 17 Jun and 1 Jul (JS, DS). Another several were in *Crenshaw* (DMW, PB). Tennessee records came 2 Jun in *Hardeman* (VBR, CHB) and throughout the period in *Shelby* (WRP, VBR et al.).

Single ad. male Baltimore Orioles were found 13 Jun in *Oktibbeha* and 2 Jul in *Noxubee* (RW, LW); the species is a rare nester in the Starkville area. Near the only known breeding area in Alabama was a pair of Red Crossbills 14 Jun in *Cleburne*, n. Alabama (JFF). While 2 American Goldfinches 9-10 Jun in *Vermilion*, LA were only very late stragglers, up to 19 coming to feeders in *Montgomery*, MS 23 Jun—19 Jul (DW) clearly were breeding locally. There were five nesting pairs counted 30 Jun and 14 Jul in *Yazoo*, MS (DJo, PM, HSG, BG).

ADDENDA

At least two important records from Louisiana failed to reach the editors in time for inclusion in the spring report: a **Yellow-green Vireo** photographed 24 Apr 2000 in *Cameron*, LA (JO, ph. SW) and a **Varied Bunting**, 9 Apr 2002 in *Cameron* (ph. JM). The latter is the first record for Louisiana, and both have been accepted by the L.O.S.B.R.C. There was also a **Common Redpoll** 17 Mar 2002 in *Tuscaloosa*, AL (JCT), approximately the 11th record for Alabama.

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2003 BIRDING TOURS

<p>CHINA #1 Beidaihe Migration 3-19 May</p> <p>CHINA #2 Manchuria Inner Mongolia 20 May-14 June</p>	<p>MALAYSIA Malaya Borneo (Mt. Kinabalu) 4-27 July</p> <p>NORTH BURMA EXPEDITION SE Himalayas 1-30 November</p>
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2004 BIRDING TOURS

<p>VIETNAM North, South 2-25 January</p> <p>THAILAND Northwest, Central, Peninsular 3-25 January</p> <p>PHILIPPINES Luzon, Mindanao, Cebu, Palawan, Bohol, Negros 30 January-1 March</p> <p>WEST BURMA Mt. Victoria, Pagan 5-28 March</p> <p>BHUTAN 2-25 April</p> <p>NW CHINA Xinjiang Province 21 May-13 June</p> <p>TIBET TRAVERSE 12 June-13 July</p> <p>MALAYSIA 3-25 July</p> <p>SOUTH SUMATRA 30 July-22 August</p>	
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Prairie Provinces



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Weather conditions were highly variable across the Region. June ranged from cool and wet in southern Manitoba and southeastern Saskatchewan to bone-dry in the northwest. July was generally hot and dry. Heavy snow fell in the Alberta mountains in early June and again in late July; provincial compiler Michael Harrison wrote that the province experienced "all four seasons in June and July, sometimes in one day."

Migrants lingered longer than normal in the south (Table 1), and many did not arrive on the breeding grounds until mid-June or late June. Combined with the cold spring, the summer proved hard on many species. In Saskatchewan, early nesters, such as diurnal raptors, had poor success, while Mallards and Gadwalls were seen with newly hatched young as late as 3 August. Tree Swallows and Mountain Bluebirds were hard hit throughout, while in the southern Alberta foothills and mountains, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Yellow-rumped Warblers, Chipping and

White-crowned Sparrows, Dark-eyed Juncos, and Pine Siskins were decimated by the cold and snow. High shorebird numbers in early and mid-July indicated widespread nesting failures farther north as well. Similarly, a higher-than-usual number of singing warblers (especially Tennessee) in southern Manitoba in the first half of July probably involved failed breeders.

Abbreviations: O.H.M. (Oak Hammock Marsh W.M.A., MB); S.R.V. (Sheep River Valley, AB).

GREBES THROUGH DIURNAL RAPTORS

Pied-billed Grebes were noted at three different Churchill, MB locations 14-17 Jun (RK, BD et al.). Six Double-crested Cormorants at the Peace-Athabasca delta, AB 20 Jun were far north (RT, KT). Best of the "rare" herons were single Great Egrets at Pelican L., SK 4 Jun (WH) and Clearwater Lake P.P. in cen. Manitoba in late Jun (WD), a Little Blue Heron at St. Ambroise P.P., MB 25 May-4 Jun (L&RJ, CA, RP, LV), 7 Cattle Egrets at Whitewater L., MB 14 Jul (CA, RP, JS, LV), a Green Heron in Winnipeg, MB 23 Jun (JB), and a Yellow-crowned Night-Heron at O.H.M. 22-25 Jun (PG, NB, m. ob.). An unidentified *Plegadis* ibis near Gravelbourg, SK 1-2 Jun (DH) and a White-faced Ibis near Climax, SK 14 Jun (WH) were notable.

Summering Snow Geese, often injured birds, are not unexpected in the south, but

exceptional numbers this year included about 20 near Killarney, MB (CC), 5+ at Dand, MB (DF, GG, RK, PT), and 5 at Gainsborough Dam, SK (CA, RP, LV). A Ross's Goose at Wascana Park, SK 10 Jul was out of season (FL, m. ob.). A Trumpeter Swan was photographed at Holland, MB 1 Jun (CA, RP, LV). Five pairs of Cinnamon Teal were found at Cypress L., SK 15 Jun (WH), while a molting male was at Oak L., MB in late Jun (DB, PG). Single male Eurasian Wigeon were spotted at Cypress L. (WH) and at Churchill (BD), both 15 Jun. Record numbers of "southern" diving ducks reached Churchill: up to 11 Canvasbacks 16 Jun (BD et al.), 8 Redheads 17 Jun (BD et al.), and 24+ male Ring-necked Ducks 15 Jun (RK et al.). The latter species peaked at 53 on 14 Jul (BC). A Barrow's Goldeneye at Churchill 18 Jun was very rare (BD et al.). A duck at Moose Mtn. P.P., SK 28 Jun was believed to be a *Bucephala* sp. x Hooded Merganser hybrid (CA, RP, LV). Swainson's Hawks had a poor season in Saskatchewan, while Peregrine Falcons suffered nesting failures at Regina and Saskatoon (*vide* BL).

GROUSE THOUGH WOODPECKERS

A Ruffed Grouse photographed at Churchill 13 Jun was a new species for the area (SI, RK, BS, DW). Yellow Rails were described as scarce in s. Saskatchewan (BL) and at Douglas, MB (CC), but appeared to be thriving near Ste. Rita, MB (PT et al.). For the first time in at least five years, no Black-necked Stilt nests were found in Saskatchewan. About 700 Hudsonian Godwits massed at Beaverhill L., AB 23 Jul (BCa, BR, RT), with another 19 noted at nearby Elk Island P.P. the next day (BCa, BR). Do these large numbers indicate massive nesting failure farther north, or drought-displacement from known gathering areas in cen. Saskatchewan? A Ruff was reported without details near Churchill in early Jun.

Lone Parasitic and Long-tailed Jaegers were rarities at Wood Buffalo N.P., AB 8 Jun (PJ). Little Gulls are doing well at Churchill, with at least 12 ads. present in mid-Jun, while a few Ross's Gulls continued to draw birders from far and wide. Rare anywhere in Alberta, a Band-tailed Pigeon in Calgary 31 Jul-5 Aug was seen by many (D&WL, m. ob.). Mourning Doves appear to be declining in Saskatchewan's urban areas, while increasing in rural regions, mirroring the situation in Manitoba. Increasing corvid numbers may be to blame for the decrease (BL). Eurasian

Table 1. Representative lingerers and late migrants, Prairies Provinces Region, June and July 2002.

Pacific Loon	1	4 Jun	Lac la Biche, AB	PJ
Pacific Loon	1	4 Jun	Lesser Slave L., AB	PJ
Ross's Goose	1	2 Jun	Tofield, AB	PJ
Ross's Goose	6	12 Jun	Reed L., SK	GG
American Golden-Plover	1	13 Jun	Frank L., AB	TK
Western Sandpiper	1	10 Jun	Calgary	TK
Gray-cheeked Thrush	1	10 Jun	S.R.V.	WS
Swainson's Thrush	2	11 Jun	Lethbridge, AB	D&TD
Hermit Thrush	1	6 Jun	Winnipeg	CA
Blackpoll Warbler	1	13 Jun	Lethbridge, AB	D&TD
Blackpoll Warbler	1	19 Jun	Regina	TH
American Redstart	1	12 Jun	Lethbridge, AB	D&TD
Mourning Warbler	1	11 Jun	Wascana Park	BL
Wilson's Warbler	1	12 Jun	Regina	TH, SA
Canada Warbler	1	13 Jun	Wyndham-Carseland P.P., AB	TK
Snow Bunting	1	5 Jun	Indian Cabins, AB	PJ
Harris's Sparrow	1	14 Jun	O.H.M.	<i>fide</i> CBr
Common Redpoll	1	mid-Jun	Airdrie, AB	LM
Common Redpoll	1	28 Jun	Calgary	BJ

e. edge of its range (CB, MB). A possible sighting of a pair of Blue Grosbeaks at Teulon, MB in late May (*fide* KG) was followed by a well-described male at a feeder in the Wauchope-Redvers area, SK 5 Jun (BH). Unfortunately, neither sighting could be confirmed, and the species remains on the hypothetical lists of both provinces. A probable Eastern x Western Meadowlark hybrid was near Kronau, SK 8-9 Jun (BL, TR).

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Collared-Doves fledged 2 young at Red Deer, AB (DP); in Saskatchewan, they were reported at Eastend, Val Marie, and Mortlach (WH, MF). At the latter location, a nearly fledged young bird died in a thunderstorm.

A Snowy Owl at Churchill 22 Jul was unseasonal (BC, DF et al.), while an ad. Long-eared Owl with 2 "branchlings" 20 Jul furnished a rare n. breeding record (BC). Out-of-range Rufous Hummingbirds were near Saskatoon 29 Jun (RKR), near La Corey, AB in early Jun (M&SR), and near Cold L., AB 1 Jul (ME). A pair of Hairy Woodpeckers at Churchill in mid-Jun provided the 3rd record for the area, the others being from 1999 and from the 19th century (RK et al.).

PASSERINES

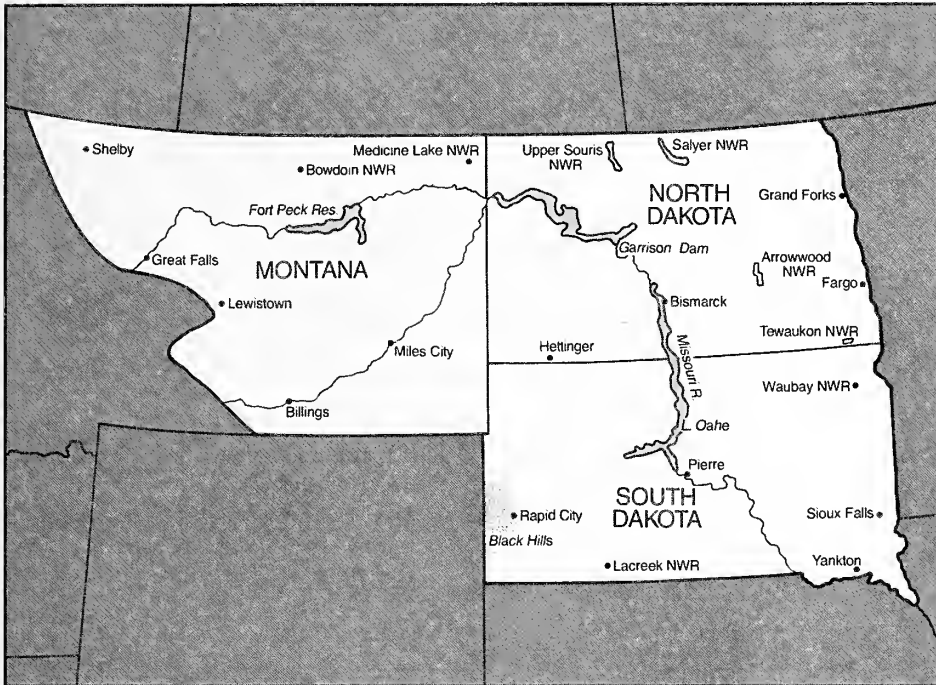
At least 2 Willow Flycatchers near Biggar, SK 19 Jul were at the n. edge of their range (AH). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher made a brief appearance at St. Adolphe, MB 17 Jun (SC). Unexpected in cen. Manitoba was a Northern Shrike near the Hargrave River 14 Jun (PT). Up to 3 Brown Creepers, including an obvious pair, were present at Churchill in mid-Jun (RK et al.). A Northern Wheatear was at

Churchill 16 Jun, but no details were provided (BC). Snow forced 150 Swainson's Thrushes out in the open in S.R.V. 10 Jun (WS). A Varied Thrush was a rare summer visitor at Regina 2 June (JC).

Each province had Northern Mockingbird reports, with notable sightings at Fish Creek P.P., AB 28 Jun (DJ) and Cypress Hills P.P., SK 2 Jul (L&RD). A Sage Thrasher near Ravenscrag, SK 15 Jun was rare (WH), while Alberta's first nesting since 1992 was noted at Manyberries 29 Jun-6 Jul (RKL). Two Sprague's Pipits at East Shoal L., MB 25 Jun showed that the species continues to maintain a toehold at the ne. edge of its range (KG). Notable warbler sightings included a Nashville at Cold L. 14 Jul (J&MM), and single Black-throated Blues at Winnipeg in early/mid-Jun (RB) and S.R.V. 17 Jun (WS), Churchill's 2nd Bay-breasted 13 Jun (J&BL), and a Hooded reported without details at O.H.M. 14 Jun (*fide* CBr).

A Lark Sparrow was unexpected at the Columbia Icefields, AB 7 Jul (J&MM). Lark Buntings were widely reported only in sw. Saskatchewan (CB et al.). A McCown's Longspur near Radville, SK 18 Jul was at the

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The season was characterized by extreme variation in precipitation levels. Eastern Montana was quite dry and had roughly average temperatures. Continuing the trend from the previous winter and spring, the Dakotas started out with dry conditions. In mid-June, the rains and heat came to most areas north of Interstate 94 in North Dakota, with torrential rains in some areas of northeastern North Dakota. South of Interstate 94, North Dakota was very dry, as was most of South Dakota. In western South Dakota, the drought was severe.

Waterfowl production was down significantly from recent years, and broods were late. Good shorebird concentrations were noted in some areas. Several unusual species appeared in southwestern South Dakota, perhaps related to the drought and fires in the western states and the recent fires in the Black Hills. Numerous notable nesting confirmations were tallied in North Dakota.

Abbreviation: N. G. P. (National Game Preserve). Species marked with a "p. a." are

subject to review by the appropriate state records committee.

GREBES THROUGH FALCONS

Red-necked Grebes continue to expand their range in North Dakota. A single in Williston 23 Jun provided the first county record for *Williams* (REM). Almost doubling the number of nesting confirmations for North Dakota, five pairs of Clark's Grebes with young were noted in *Kidder* 7 Jul (REM). American White Pelican numbers included 16,500 nesting pairs at Chase L., ND (TK) and 3579 nests at Medicine L., MT (EM).

A pair of Least Bitterns feeding young at L. Bertha, *Cass* furnished about the 6th nesting record for North Dakota (DPW). The largest Great Egret colony on record for North Dakota, 275 nests were counted in *Sargent* 10 Jun (DNS). A pair of Green Herons was nest-building 6 Jul in *Ransom*, ND (JPL). There are still fewer than 10 confirmations for this now uncommon breeder. On the increase in the summer season, Ross's Geese were noted 8 Jun in *Cass* (JPL) and 13 Jun in *Bottineau*, ND (KJ, AJ). A Common Goldeneye in *Pennington*, SD 5 Jun was very late (JLB).

Two fledgling Ospreys begging below Baldhill Dam, *Barnes*, ND 25 Jul provided the

first successful, and long anticipated, nesting for the state (BS, p. a.). According to local Corps of Engineers staff, a pair also nested in the area last year (ST). Merlins continue to nest successfully in the larger cities of North Dakota, with single nests in Dickinson and Minot and up to five nests in Grand Forks (EEF). An ad. Peregrine Falcon summered at McKenzie Slough, *Burleigh*, ND (DNS), and six other reports were tallied from North Dakota and Montana.

RAILS THROUGH DOVES

Virginia Rails were unusually common this summer, with double-digit counts possible most evenings. Eighteen young were counted in a short distance in *Burleigh*, ND 7 Jul (REM). Piping Plover numbers were down, with the U.S. Alkali Lakes Core Area hosting the lowest number since 1989 (JI). A single Piping Plover at Freezeout L., MT 17 Jul was very unusual in that area (MS). Five Red Knot reports from North Dakota and Montana were above average. An American Woodcock with a young bird in *Pembina*, ND 5 Jul furnished one of only a handful of nesting confirmations for the state (JP).

The first Jul report for South Dakota, a Herring Gull was in *Hughes* 12 Jul (KM, p. a.). Thirty Caspian Tern nests at Chase L., *Stutsman*, ND provided the 3rd documented nesting area in the state for this expanding species (TK). Furnishing the 2nd confirmation for North Dakota, a **Eurasian Collared-Dove** nest was found 29 Jun in Grand Forks, ND (DOL, p. a.). Elsewhere, Eurasian Collared-Doves continued at Malta, MT (SJD) and in *Logan*, ND (CDE, HCT). A single was noted in a new area in *Burke*, ND 23 Jun (FT, p. a.).

OWLS THROUGH VIREOS

Now very rare e. of the Missouri R., three Burrowing Owl broods were seen in *Emmons*, ND 29 Jul (CDE, HCT). In South Dakota, a Burrowing Owl was noted in *Brown* 15 Jul (SLS). Only the 2nd report for South Dakota, a pair of **Flammulated Owls** was present from early Jun to mid-Jul in *Lawrence* (BG, p. a.). Well above average, five Rufous Hummingbird reports from the Black Hills spanned 13 Jun—21 Jul. Continuing the trend from the spring season, 4 Broad-tailed Hummingbirds were tallied in the Black Hills in the same time period. Providing the 6th report for South Dakota, a **Calliope Hummingbird** was in *Pennington* 13 Jul (RDO, KM, p. a.). Furnishing the 4th nesting record for North Dakota, Red-bellied Woodpeckers were feeding young in *Ransom*

5 Jul (JPL). Well nw. of their range, a single Red-bellied was at Minot, ND 3 Jun (REM). A Pileated Woodpecker nest with young at Turtle R. S. P., ND 23 Jun provided one of only a few nesting records for the state (DOL).

An Eastern Wood-Pewee at the N. Unit of Theodore Roosevelt N.P. 23 Jun was well w. of usual haunts and a first for the park (JH, JL). Migrant Alder Flycatchers noted w. of their usual corridor included a single 3 Jun in Custer, SD (AP, p. a.) and 4 in Miles City, MT on the same date (CP). A first for Montana, a **Yellow-throated Vireo** was seen by many in Columbus from 16 Jun—Jul (DT, HC, BM, GM, p. a.). Recordings and photographs were obtained. If accepted, a Philadelphia Vireo 6 Jul in Meade, SD would provide the first state record for that month (DGP, p. a.).

CORVIDS THROUGH WARBLERS

Two Common Ravens were in the Turtle Mts. of North Dakota 16 Jun, where nesting is suspected but still unconfirmed (REM). The first documented nesting for North Dakota, a **Brown Creeper** nest with young was photographed at Sully's Hill N. G. P. 30 Jun (REM, p. a.). Elsewhere in North Dakota, a Brown Creeper was singing at J. Clark Salyer N.W.R. 23 Jun (FT). Unusually far nw., a Wood Thrush was territorial at Minot, ND 8-24 Jun (REM). A pair of Northern Mockingbirds located 2 Jul in Richland, ND was seen building a nest 6 Jul (DNS, REM). This provided about the 7th nesting record for the state.

The 2nd report for Montana, a **Golden-winged Warbler** was noted 2 Jun in Phillips (SJD, p. a.). Early Jun reports of Tennessee Warblers were numerous across North Dakota and Montana. A Tennessee Warbler in Lincoln, SD 27 Jun furnished about the 12th summer report for the state (REP, p. a.). A Nashville Warbler 26 Jun in McHenry, ND was in appropriate breeding habitat (RR). The only nesting records are from the ne. corner of the state. Very unusual in e. South Dakota in summer, a Northern Parula was in Lincoln 14 Jun (RD, LJ, p. a.), and a Chestnut-sided Warbler was in Lincoln 22 Jun (RDO, KM, p. a.). A Black-throated Green Warbler was late and far west in Meade, SD 5 Jun (REP, p. a.). Providing the 6th report for North Dakota, a **Kentucky Warbler** was at Fargo 9 Jun (DPW, p. a.). A Hooded Warbler in Meade, SD 29 Jun was in an area where the species has nested in the past (REP, p. a.).

TANAGERS THROUGH GOLDFINCHES

Providing about the 13th record for

Montana, a Scarlet Tanager was in Medicine L. 14 Jun (JL, EM, SS, p. a.). An Eastern Towhee noted 6 Jun and again 24-31 Jul in Grand Forks, ND was unusual, as no breeding records exist for that county (EEF). A Brewer's Sparrow was e. of known breeding areas in Hettinger, ND 5 Jun (LDI). Henslow's Sparrows were noted in North Dakota in Eddy 22 Jun and Kidder 27 Jun (LDI, p. a.). The 2nd report for South Dakota, a **Cassin's Sparrow** was found in Fall River 5 Jul (JSP, p. a.). Subsequently, there were reports of 2-3 individuals in the same area through 12 Jul.


A Blue Grosbeak was singing in Emmons, ND 7 Jul in the same area where birds were noted last summer (REM). Dickcissels made a strong showing in North Dakota, and several individuals singing near Bridger, MT 22 Jun provided about the 18th record for the state (Y.V.A.S., p. a.). An Eastern Meadowlark in Beadle, SD 25 Jun—7 Jul was ne. of the species's usual range (RGR, p. a.). White-winged Crossbills in Phillips, MT 10 Jun (SJD) and Lawrence, SD 13 Jul were in areas where nesting is possible but not confirmed.

A black-backed **Lesser Goldfinch** near Laurel, MT 2 Jun would provide the 3rd record for the state if accepted (HM, p. a.).

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Some changes that occur in the Region are difficult to track, as they may be localized or cover only parts of the Region. As homogeneous as the Southern Great Plains may seem, the region's sometimes wildly varying climatic conditions can make trends in bird distribution difficult to discern; the climate of the region is influenced both by the extremes of the boreal High Rockies and the essentially tropical Gulf, and tornado allies represent the clash of these contrasting influences.

Nonetheless, while the Region at large has benefited from a mostly wet weather regime through the 1990s, the patterns of recent years have shifted to being drier and have brought us into what are effectively drought conditions. Some water and marsh birds still maintain their numbers in refugia of various sorts, but some species, such as Eared and Western Grebes and California Gulls, consid-

ered to be healthy numbers in wetter times, are currently at low ebbs in their populations here.

Abbreviations: Cheyenne Bottoms (Cheyenne Bottoms W.M.A., Barton, KS); McConaughy (L. McConaughy, Keith, NE); Pawnee L. (Pawnee L., Lancaster, NE); Quivira (Quivira N.W.R., Stafford, KS); Red Slough (Red Slough W.M.A., McCurtain, OK); Salt Plains (Salt Plains N.W.R., Alfalfa, OK).

LOONS THROUGH DUCKS

Among a modest count of 91 Western Grebes at McConaughy 13 Jun were 8 Clark's (SJD). Single Clark's Grebes were in Lincoln, NE 13 Jun (SJD) and Kimball, NE 22 Jun (WRS), presumably nonbreeders. Quite exceptional was the ad. **Brown Pelican** photographed below Gavin's Point Dam, Cedar, NE and over Lewis and Clark L., Knox, NE 27 Jun—2 Jul (DB, *fide* RO et al.), possibly part of the widespread dispersal of birds from the Sea of Cortez as far as Colorado, but probably more

likely from the Gulf of Mexico. Among a scattering of Neotropical Cormorants was one at Cheyenne Bottoms 13 Jul (MG), with up to 6 at Red Slough through the period (DA, BH, m. ob.). An Anhinga was noted in McCurtain, OK 6 Jul (BH), with one wandering out to Lincoln, OK 19 Jul (JAG).

A Least Bittern noted in Sheridan, NE 23 Jun (WM) was rather far west. A Snowy Egret in Harlan 30 Jun (GH, WH) was the only report of this species for Nebraska. Single imm. Little Blue Herons wandered n. to Pawnee L. 9 Jun (LE) and Harlan, NE 18-30 Jun (LR, RH et al.). Tricolored Herons appear to be maintaining their breeding outposts at Quivira (*fide* LM) and the Salt Plains (JWA, SM), and up to 3 were noted at Red Slough (DA et al.).

Part of the recent upsurge of Glossy Ibis reports, singles were at Cheyenne Bottoms and Quivira 14 Jun (SJD). Up to 4 ad. Glossies were noted at the Salt Plains along with up to 5 possible Glossy Ibis x White-faced Ibis hybrids 31 May—6 Jul (JWA, JAG; see *N. A. B.* 57 [1], forthcoming). Vagrant Wood Storks began appearing at Red Slough 9 Jun, with up to 47 present by the end of the period (DA, m. ob.). Contrary to the recent trend, the only Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks were 2 noted in Major, OK 25 Jun (JWA), 3 in Tulsa, OK 25 Jun (PM), and up to 11 at Red Slough through the period (BH, DA, m. ob.). In addition to about 12 breeding pairs of Trumpeter Swans in Nebraska (*fide* WM) was a pair in Grant, NE with 4 young 12 Jul (TEL, DS, MB). Lingering waterfowl have become more routine during the past decade in the Region. Among the more noteworthy finds this season were a male Cinnamon Teal e. to Phelps, NE through 9 Jun (LR, RH) and another male in Douglas, KS 5 Jun (GP), 1-2 Ring-necked Ducks in McCurtain, OK through the period (DA, BH et al.), a pair of Ring-necked Ducks in Scotts Bluff, NE 2 Jun (AK), single male Ring-necked Ducks in Keith, NE 13 Jun (SJD) and Clay, NE 15 Jun (JGJ), a male Canvasback at Hancock L., Scotts Bluff, NE 23 Jun (WRS), a male Bufflehead in Cherry, NE 14 Jun (MB), and a male Common Goldeneye in Keith, NE 13 & 22 Jun (SJD, AK, LR, †RH).

HAWKS THROUGH TERNS

A real surprise was the isolated observation of a **White-tailed Kite** in Pontotoc, OK 1 Jun (WAC et al.). The impression from at least two states (Nebraska and Oklahoma) was that Cooper's Hawks were more common this season. The only reports of Virginia Rails

were of singles at *Knox*, NE 8 & 27 Jun (MB) and *Linn*, KS 16 Jun (MC, MM). Given the dry conditions, a Sora in *Sioux*, NE 8 Jun (AK) was unexpected. Up to 8 of those lovely Purple Gallinules were noted at Red Slough 12 Jun—31 Jul (DA, BH, m. ob.).

Summer shorebirds invariably provide interpretational problems concerning their status. Among apparent tardy northbound birds were a Black-bellied Plover at *Burt*, NE through 9 Jun (JGJ) and a Semipalmated Plover at Pawnee L. 15 Jun (LE). Outside the Platt R. Basin in Nebraska were two breeding Piping Plovers pairs found in *Pottawatomie*, KS 12 Jul (DM). Reports of breeding Black-necked Stilts continue at scattered locations in the Region including *Scotts Bluff*, NE (AK, KD), *Finney*, KS (T&SS, BC), and *Tillman*, OK (LT, MT).

What do you do with reports of a Lesser Yellowlegs and Long-billed Dowitcher 14 Jun at Quivira (SJD), or a Marbled Godwit 13 Jun at McConaughy (SJD)? The godwit is not known to breed in Nebraska. Exceptional were 3 Hudsonian Godwits and a Dunlin at Quivira 14 Jun (SJD). Tardy tardies included 6 Sanderlings at the Salt Plains 8 Jun (JWA) and 3 at Cheyenne Bottoms 14 Jun (SJD). Up to 23 Semipalmated Sandpipers were at McConaughy 13 Jun (SJD), 3 in *Phelps*, NE 13 Jun (SJD), and 9 in *Lancaster*, NE 15 Jun (LE). Clearly a find of the season was a stunning **Curlew Sandpiper** documented 12 Jul at Quivira (MRo, DK, MT).

Reports of Western Sandpipers continue to be few, with only two reports from Nebraska—singles in *McPherson* 27 Jul (DS) and at Pawnee L. 28 Jul (LE). Six Westerns were noted at Cheyenne Bottoms 4 Jul (PJ, DA). White-rumped Sandpipers can linger quite late in Jun, as is true throughout the East, but the single at Quivira 12 Jul (MRo, DK, MT), 6 in *McPherson*, NE 27 Jul (DS), and one or more in *Harlan*, NE 30 Jul (GH, WH) were unusual; the Region needs compelling documentation of these apparently southbound birds in late summer. Among the list of spring tardies were a Baird's Sandpiper at McConaughy 13 Jun (SJD) and 7 Pectoral Sandpipers at McConaughy 13 Jun (SJD), with 2 in *Phelps*, NE the same day (SJD) and 2 at Pawnee L. 15 Jun (LE). An ad. Stilt Sandpiper was also at McConaughy 13 Jun (SJD), with a single in *Phelps*, NE 8 Jun (LR, RH), and 3 at Quivira 14 Jun (SJD). Buff-breasted Sandpipers continue to be a species of interest. Those reported in late Jul are normally ads., as was true this year: 5 in *Sedgwick*, KS 28 Jul (PJ), 2 at Pawnee L. 30 Jul (JG), and one in *York*, NE 31 Jul (CG). A few

Short-billed Dowitchers appeared, including singles at Pawnee L. 26-30 Jul (JG) and *Knox*, NE 27 Jul (MB, ad.), and 3 in *Clay*, NE 28 Jul (JGJ).

Slipping in recent years are California Gulls, the summer high count only 10 at McConaughy 13 Jun (SJD). A "near ad." in *Lancaster*, NE 15 Jun had a mantle only slightly darker than adjacent Ring-billed Gulls, suggesting that it was of the expected prairie race *albertaensis* (JGJ). A vagrant first-summer Herring Gull was at McConaughy 13 Jun (SJD).

DOVES THROUGH FINCHES

Eurasian Collared-Dove numbers are still exploding, particularly across w. stretches of the Region. White-winged Dove are also continuing to increase, with one in *Keith*, NE 3-10 Jun (CWH) and one in *Riley*, KS 3 Jul (SK). Groups of 5 or more White-wingeds can routinely be found in Lawton, OK (JAG). The only Inca Doves reported were 2 in *McCurtain*, OK 11 Jul (DA). Black-billed Cuckoos maintain difficult-to-track low densities in the Region. Only 4 were reported from Nebraska (*fide* WRS), with only one other, that from *Russell*, KS 1 Jun (MR).

Catching the increasingly diverse hummingbird migration has become a focus in w. Kansas. The front end of this season in Jul saw 4 Calliopes at residences in *Pawnee* and *Finney*, KS beginning 19 Jul (T&SS, DKa, OS). The first Rufous Hummingbirds noted for the season were in *Scotts Bluff*, NE 12 Jul (KD) and 14 Jul in *Finney* (T&SS). Trickier to identify, a female and 3 imm. Broad-tailed Hummingbirds were identified 27 & 31 Jul, respectively, in *Finney*, KS (T&SS). A Broad-tailed Hummingbird was claimed in *Sioux*, NE 17 Jul (HKH), with at least one in *Scotts Bluff*, NE 31 Jul—1 Aug (KD).

The boundary between Western and Eastern Wood-Pewees is always a question Regionally. A Western was e. to *Cherry*, NE 13 Jun (MB). Among the westernmost Easterns was one near Valentine, *Cherry*, NE 13 Jun (KP) and one in *Harlan*, NE 23 Jun (GH, WH). A species of quite sporadic occurrence, a male Vermilion Flycatcher was in *Morton*, KS 21 Jun (JN). Westerly was a Great Crested Flycatcher in *Morrill*, NE 28 Jun (HW). Only occasionally transgressing westward, a Yellow-throated Vireo was near *Knox*, NE 8 Jun (MB). Two Plumbeous Vireos were reported, both from Sowbelly Canyon, *Sioux*, NE, apparently an isolated breeding locale (AK, MB). A Purple Martin in *Cherry*, NE 13-14 Jun (MB) was w. of the known breeding range. Nesting Violet-green Swallows using a

nest box in *Scotts Bluff*, NE were first seen 16 Jun with five eggs (HW) and provided a rare local breeding record.

A Red-breasted Nuthatch in *Sedgwick*, KS 13 Jun (H&SG) fits a pattern of occasional summer vagrancy in the Region. Quite intriguing was a Swainson's Thrush in riparian forest in *Harlan*, NE 23 Jun (GH, WH). A singing Blue-winged Warbler in *Knox*, NE 8 Jun (MB) seemed part of a recent group of sightings since 1998 in this border area between Nebraska and South Dakota (*fide* WRS). A Townsend's Warbler in *Sioux*, NE 11-12 Jun (HKH) was a very late migrant or nonbreeding wanderer. A male Cerulean Warbler in *Linn*, KS 30 Jun—14 Jul (MM, GP) was one to watch, a bird the very edge of the species's fractured range. Kentucky Warblers were found w. to *Alfalfa*, OK 5 Jul (JAG). Probably a spring migrant (as the species is notoriously late in most springs), a female Mourning Warbler was in *Otoe*, NE 13 Jun (LF, CF).

Curious were single Spotted Towhees in *Russell*, KS 13 Jun (BB), and *Riley*, KS 14 Jun (TC), both s. and e. of the edge of the known breeding range in Nebraska. A group of 6-8 Cassin's Sparrows in *Lincoln*, NE 6 Jul (LR, RH) provided one the easternmost locations for this species in Nebraska. Encouraging were 15 Bachman's Sparrows counted in *Pushmataha*, OK 8 Jun (WAC, MD, MH), and at two locations in *McCurtain*, OK during late Jun (BH, JM). A male Henslow's Sparrow was noted in *Lancaster*, NE 13 Jun (KP). The Song Sparrow population in *Phelps*, NE continues to increase, with 23 counted there 2 Jun (LR, RH).

About 60 Lazuli Bunting territories were mapped in the Wichita Mountains, OK this season (VF, JAG et al.), far more than anticipated to be present in this fluctuating population. A male Lazuli mated to a female Indigo fledged a brood during late Jul in *Blaine*, OK (JAG). A surprise was a female Painted Bunting in *Dixon*, NE 2 Jun (JJ). An encouraging observation was a pair of Bobolinks with 3 young in *Lancaster*, NE 10 Jul (MU). Two Brewer's Blackbirds were a surprise in *Cherry*, NE 13 Jun (MB). Three Red Crossbills at Valentine N.W.R., *Cherry*, NE 14 Jun (MB) seemed out of range, while the 12 in *McCurtain*, OK (BH) were quite unexpected, even for this typically wandering species. But even more remarkable were the **White-winged Crossbills**, remnants of the spring incursion, lingering until 1 Jun in Omaha (NR) and until 20 Jun in *Rock*, NE (CH).

Texas

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The spring rains at Big Bend National Park continued through the summer and eventually spread through the remainder of the Trans-Pecos, providing at least temporary relief from the decade-long drought. Overall, the summer was cooler than normal, if you can call the mid-90s Fahrenheit cool. In many areas of the state, temperatures did not reach 100° F until well into July. The major weather event of the season, however, was the downpours that deluged south-central Texas. During a two-week period, Wiedenfeld recorded an unbelievable 109 cm near

Comfort, Kendall County—where the annual rainfall is about 81 cm. The resulting flooding pushed the Comal, Guadalupe, Medina, and San Marcos Rivers out of their banks and caused millions of dollars of property damage. Sekula estimated that the San Antonio River was over 3 km wide at Falls City, Karnes, at the height of the event.

This summer was one of the most exciting in many years as far as bird records are concerned. First nesting records for the state were established for two species in the Trans-Pecos (Greater Pewee and MacGillivray's Warbler), and one rarity after another was found in the Lower Rio Grande Valley during June. One of the highlights of this season was the discovery of multiple territorial male Yellow-green Vireos in the Valley. The number present eclipsed those documented during the previous decade. Astounding finds included a Yellow-faced Grassquit at Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley State Park, a Common Redpoll in Galveston, and a Lawrence's Goldfinch at Guadalupe Mountains National Park. We are not sure which granivore is more enticing!

Abbreviations: T.B.R.C. (Texas Bird Records Committee); U.T.C. (Upper Texas Coast);

N.S. (National Seashore). The following are shortened names for the respective local, county, state, or national parks, and wildlife refuges, etc.: Alazan Bayou, Anahuac, Balcones Canyonlands, Bentsen, Big Bend, Big Bend Ranch, Buescher, Buffalo Lake, Matagorda Island, Packery Channel, Palo Duro Canyon, Quintana, Sabine Woods, San Bernard, Santa Ana, Sea Rim, and Trinity River.

LOONS THROUGH STORKS

A Pacific Loon was quite unexpected at L. Belton, *Bell* 25 Jun–2 Jul (†RPI et al.). Amazingly, the bird was relocated 31 Jul at nearby Stillhouse Hollow Res., *Bell* (GE). Common Loons are rare in summer along the coast and generally are in basic plumage, but an alternate-plumaged bird was along Padre Island N.S. 12 Jul (BS). More unexpected was a floundering Common Loon at Sheffield, *Pecos* 8 Jun. Freeman and Hockey transported it to Balmorhea L., *Reeves*, where they discovered another individual. Both birds were still present until at least 14 Jun. A calling Common Loon was at L. Meredith, *Hutchinson* 12 Jun (D&DD). A pair of Least Grebes with 5 young in Austin, *Travis* may have been a first county nesting record (SY).

The breeding population of *Aechmophorus* grebes at McNary Res., *Hudspeth* continues to thrive. Paton noted 143 individuals 7 Jun, 55 of them young of the year. Clark's Grebes outnumbered Westerns, although both were well represented. A deep-water pelagic trip was conducted out of Port Isabel, *Cameron* 24 Jul yielded 2 Cory's Shearwaters, as well as one Leach's (†EC) and 57 Band-rumped Storm-Petrels (BMc, EC, m. ob.). A sick Northern Gannet was recovered from Surfside, *Brazoria* 5 Jul (*fide* DS). Nonbreeding American White Pelicans were widespread through cen. Texas, with concentrations of over 100 in a few locations during Jul. More noteworthy were singles at Midland 7 Jun (DK) and McNary Res. 3 Jun, the latter being joined by 18 birds 8 Jul (JPa). An inland Brown Pelican was at L. Calaveras, *Bexar* 1 Jun (HR). More noteworthy were birds farther w. at McNary Res. from 12–18 Jun (JPa) and L. Alan Henry, *Garza* 25 Jul (DL). Double-crested Cormorant colonies at Sam Rayburn Res., *San Augustine* (JF, DW) and Palo Duro Res., *Hansford* (KS) continue to be active. Double-crested Cormorants built three nests at Buffalo L., *Randall*, although none was successful; 45 individuals were present through the season (KS). An unusually large concentration of 100 Neotropic Cormorants was noted at Richland

Cr., *Freestone* 7 Jul (PB). This species was also noted in the Abilene area, 2 in *Taylor* and one in *Jones* (JaP). An impressive concentration of 75 Magnificent Frigatebirds was observed at Quintana, *Brazoria* 14 Jul (RW).

Least Bitterns were present through the period at L. Calaveras, where the species is probably a localized breeder (m. ob.). In the Panhandle and South Plains, Snowy Egrets are being seen with increasing frequency. This year, three pairs were discovered in a rookery near Idalou, *Lubbock*, for a first breeding record for that region (AF et al.). A wandering Little Blue Heron made its way to McNary Res. 26 Jul (JPa). Inland Reddish Egrets were at *Bastrop* 30 Jul (BFR) and Mitchell L., *Bexar* 31 Jul (D&LE). Nonbreeding Black-crowned Night-Herons were extremely plentiful in the Panhandle this season. A stunning concentration of 375 non-nesters summered at Buffalo L., and 90 were found on a treeless playa in *Deaf Smith* 24 Jun (KS). Single imm. Black-crowned and Yellow-crowned Night-Herons were at Rio Grande Village, Big Bend N.P., *Brewster* 30 Jun (MF). White-faced Ibis summered at McNary Res. for the first time, with up to 20 during the season (JPa). Six Wood Storks were at Mitchell L. 14 Jun (HR) for an early record for an inland location.

WATERFOWL THROUGH FALCONS

An apparently healthy Greater White-fronted Goose summered near Abilene in *Jones* (JaP). Unexpected were 3 Cinnamon Teal, 2 males and a female, in *Jones* 15–18 Jul (JaP). An interesting concentration of 86 Redheads was found near New Deal, *Lubbock* 26 Jul (RK). The 2 Masked Ducks found during the spring at the Sabal Palm Sanctuary, *Cameron* remained until 22 Jul (†m. ob.). A female dark-morph Hook-billed Kite was paired with a light-morph male at Bentsen, raising 2 light-morph young (BC), providing a first breeding record in the U.S. involving a dark-morph (cf. *N. A. B.* 56: 260–262). A Swallow-tailed Kite in the Old Sabine Bottom W.M.A., *Smith* 12 Jun was well n. of the known current breeding population (VA). Two White-tailed Kites at White River L., *Crosby* 15 Jun (m. ob.) provided the 3rd record for the South Plains. A pair of Mississippi Kites fledged 2 young near *Bastrop*, *Bastrop*, for an unexpected first county breeding record and the first in s.-cen. Texas since 1902 (*fide* TF). Other Mississippi Kites in this area included one at Round Rock, *Williamson* 8–11 Jul (TF) and up to 3 at Salado, *Bell* 8–21 Jul (RPI). Scattered Northern Harriers were noted in the Panhandle southward through the Rolling Plains during the season. Quite rare

was a Sharp-shinned Hawk at Afton, *Dickens* 13 Jul (AF). An ad. Cooper's Hawk was in upper Palo Duro Canyon, *Randall* 21 & 28 Jun in an area with appropriate breeding habitat (KS). This species has not been reported breeding in the Panhandle since 1954. At least one Gray Hawk spent the summer in the Davis Mountains Preserve, *Jeff Davis* (m. ob.), and the pair present along Limpia Cr. near Fort Davis reported during the spring remained through the summer (KBr et al.). A well-documented light-morph Short-tailed Hawk was at Santa Ana from 31 May—31 Jul+ (†, ph., m. ob.). Another light-morph individual was documented at the Yturria tract of the Lower Rio Grande N.W.R., *Hidalgo* 8 Jul (†JA). These represent the 14th and 15th documented records for the state. Spectacular was a flock of 250+ subad. Swainson's Hawks in *Karnes* from 25 Jun—2 Jul (WS) where they fed on the abundant grasshoppers. A Zone-tailed Hawk was just n. of the normal breeding range in *Mason* 25 Jun (DF, BoF). More unexpected was a subad. Zone-tailed Hawk at Santa Ana 23 Jun (BC et al.).

Applomado Falcons were released at two locations in the Trans-Pecos for the first time, with 24 hacked in *Jeff Davis* and 12 in *Presidio* (JR). What in the world were Prairie Falcons doing in the e. Panhandle and South Plains this summer? Singles were in *Roberts* 3 Jun (KS), *Hansford* 7 Jun (KS), *Terry* 19 Jul (AA), and *Lubbock* 27 Jul (TM, CR). Unexpected midsummer records of Peregrine Falcons came from North Padre I., *Kleberg* 3 Jul (BS) and Buffalo L. 23 Jul (KS). Although not known to nest in the Davis Mountains, a pair of Peregrines was at the Davis Mountains Preserve 9 Jun (BFR, PH).

PRAIRIE-CHICKENS THROUGH TERNS

Seyffert was surprised to hear a booming Lesser Prairie-Chicken in *Lipscomb* 6 Jun, which was well away from any known breeding locality. Very rare in summer, an ad. Sora was found at Richland Cr., *Freestone* 13 Jul (CA). A rare event was 2 Sandhill Cranes summering at Mound L., *Terry* (AA). A late migrant American Golden-Plover was noted in *Jones* 4 Jun (JaP). With water present in Buffalo L., Snowy Plovers were noted in early Jul, suggesting possible nesting (KS). This species successfully nested in *Jones*, where they are very local (JaP). An impressive count of 248 Wilson's Plovers was made on Padre I., *Kenedy* and *Willacy* 31 Jul (BS). The last time Mountain Plovers were reported during the summer in the Panhandle was 1986, but this season one was found s. of Dalhart, *Hartley* 9

Jun and 2 others e. of Texline, *Dallam* 13 Jun (KS).

Up to 10 Whimbrels were noted at Bolivar, *Galveston* late in Jul (CTL); this species is a rare summer visitor along the coast. Fall Hudsonian Godwits are always noteworthy: this year, one was at Bolivar Flats 28 Jul (MA). Three Red Knots in worn basic plumage were at Bryan Beach, *Brazoria* 14 Jul (RW) and may have summered locally. Late Pectoral Sandpipers included 4 at Mitchell L. (WS) 16 Jun and 5 at Brazoria N.W.R. on the same date (RW). A Dunlin in Midland in late Jul (DK) made for a nice local record. Four alternate-plumaged Stilt Sandpipers at Brazoria N.W.R. 16 Jun could have been either heading n. or s. (RW). Outside the normal migration window were 2 Wilson's Phalaropes at Brazoria N.W.R. 17 Jun (RW).

Very rare in summer, a Pomarine Jaeger was on Padre I. 13 Jun (BS). Lingered Franklin's Gulls were at Midland 8 Jun (DK) and Granger L., *Williamson* 27 Jun (TF). California Gulls have become an annual visitor to the El Paso area. This season, a second-year bird was at McNary Res. 3 Jun—20 Jul and 2 ads. were there 8 Jul (JPa). A medium-sized tern was photographed at Bolivar 6 Jul (CTL) and raised speculation that it might be an Elegant, but the photographs were inconclusive. A second-year Common Tern made an unexpected visit to Mitchell L., *Bexar* 15 Jun (D&LE). The 24 Jul pelagic trip out of Port Isabel also tallied 48 Bridled and 77 Sooty Terns (BMc et al.). Another unexpected summer visitor was a Black Tern at Junction, *Kimble* 3 Jul (BL).

DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS

White-winged Doves continue to increase in the e. third of the state; one in Nacogdoches, *Nacogdoches* 4 Jul provided a first summer record for the Pineywoods (JF). Very unexpected in the desert, a Groove-billed Ani was at Panther Junction, Big Bend, *Brewster* 29 Jul (KBe, MF). Providing further evidence of the presence and possible breeding of Chuck-will's-widow in the e. Panhandle was the count of 4 in *Donley* 6 Jul (BP et al.). Another was unexpected 12.8 km s. of Yorktown, *DeWitt* 13 Jul (DM).

A female or imm. male White-eared Hummingbird was at Franklin Mountains S.P., *El Paso* 30 Jun (†BBe), and an imm. male was at Davis Mts. Resort, *Jeff Davis* 20 Jun+ (†, ph., M&ME). Buff-bellied Hummingbirds on the periphery of the breeding range were at L. Jackson, *Brazoria* 1 Jun—5 Jul (B&MC, CBr) and Seguin, *Guadalupe* 1 Jul (*fide* GS). The **Violet-crowned Hummingbird** present

in n. *Presidio* in late May remained until 6 Jun (*fide* KBr). Extraordinarily early migrant Calliope Hummingbirds were noted in Amarillo, *Randall* 25 (RSc) & 27 Jun (BP) and at Spring Branch, *Comal* 25 Jun (LL). Adding to the very early hummingbird migration was a male Rufous Hummingbird in San Antonio, *Bexar* 24 Jun (MS). An ad. male Rufous/Allen's Hummingbird with an apparently all-green back near Abilene, *Taylor* 13 Jul led Packer to suspect it could be an Allen's. Two Green Kingfishers were sporadically seen at Rio Grande Village during the season (MF et al.) A Red-bellied Woodpecker in Lubbock 23 Jul (JB) was well w. of its breeding range. A Northern Flicker was out of place at Mitchell L. 8 Jul (CH)

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH JAYS

A singing Olive-sided Flycatcher on the Davis Mountains Preserve 19 Jun (KBr, ME) provided the first mid-Jun record there since 1991. A very early Olive-sided Flycatcher was reported from Galveston I. 29 Jul (JSt). Extraordinary were the 3 **Greater Pewees** discovered in the Davis Mountains Preserve 13 Jun (†BFr, PH, EC). Further investigations revealed an active nest 9 Jul (†, ph. KBr et al.), providing a first nesting record for the state. **Buff-breasted Flycatchers** returned to Madera Canyon on the Davis Mountains Preserve for the 4th consecutive year. A pair was located in the area occupied in previous years 9 Jun (†BFr, PH, EC) and a nest was discovered 1 Jul (KBr). Monitoring of the nest revealed 3 nestlings 21 Jul. A Black Phoebe at Dickens, *Dickens* 13 Jul (AF, AH) provided a first Jul record for the South Plains. Eastern Phoebes are rare nesters in the Panhandle and South Plains, and this year found nesting pairs at Palo Duro Canyon, *Randall* and at Dickens. The pair of Dusky-capped Flycatchers found during the spring at Boot Spring in the Chisos Mountains, *Brewster* remained through the period (m. ob.). A pair of Brown-crested Flycatchers was at Webberville Park, *Travis* 3 Jun—31 Jul, providing a first county record (m. ob.). Great Kiskadees made news along the San Marcos R., *Caldwell* 23 Jun (EH). Tropical Kingbirds were present not only at Cottonwood Campground in Big Bend but also at Rio Grande Village (*fide* MF). The Couch's Kingbirds noted in the spring at Webberville Park, *Travis* remained until 5 Jul (m. ob.). A pair of Couch's Kingbird was also noted at Gonzales, *Gonzales* 9 Jul (BFr). A Cassin's Kingbird was near Texline, *Dallam* 13 Jun (KS); although the species nests only 16 km away in Clayton, New Mexico, this species is

SA Since 1999, a small number of territorial male *Vermivora* warblers have been monitored in the vicinity of Mount Livermore on the Davis Mountains Preserve. Some have sung songs similar to those of Colima Warblers, whereas others seemed to be intermediate between Colima and Virginia's Warblers. During the 2002 survey, 5 such birds were discovered between 11 and 19 Jun and were generally thought to be Colimas based on song and from visual inspection. On 12 Jul, Bryan, Hedges, Kennedy, and Robinson were able to capture 2 of these individuals for a more critical examination. The first captured bird sang a Colima-like song, but in-the-hand measurements proved that it was a Virginia's. The other individual had maintained the same territory for the past three years and was thought to be a Colima as well. In-hand examination proved that this bird was a Virginia's also. Single territorial males present in 1999 and 2000 that sang typical Colima songs and appeared visually to be that species are the best candidates for solid Colima Warbler records from the Davis Mountains. However, the results of this investigation call into question all previous records of the species in the Davis and Guadalupe Mountains.

not known to breed in the Panhandle. The female Rose-throated Becard discovered at Santa Ana in the spring remained through the season.

Startling was a singing White-eyed Vireo at Palo Duro Canyon 6 Jun (RSc et al.); this bird was in the same location as one seen during Apr. Nice finds were the 6 Bell's Vireos in *Donley* 29 Jun (EK et al.) and another in Lubbock 7 Jul (AF). Freeman confirmed a nesting record for Warbling Vireos from *Travis* when he observed a pair feeding a fledgling 2 Jul. Unfortunately, the fledgling was a Brown-headed Cowbird. Singing Warbling Vireos made very unexpected appearances on the South Plains and in the Panhandle: 3 were at different Lubbock area locations 1-9 Jun (m. ob.), and another was in Palo Duro Canyon 28 Jun (KS), providing a first summer record for the state park. A migrant Yellow-green Vireo was documented at Corpus Christi, *Nueces* 1 Jun (†WS).

Multiple territorial male Yellow-green Vireos were present in the Lower Rio Grande Valley this summer. Singing males were at Sabal Palm, *Cameron* 4-15 Jun (†PH et al.), Weslaco, *Hidalgo* 5 Jul (†JA), Santa Ana 20-27 Jun (†MH et al.), and Bentsen, where 2-3 males were present through the season (†, m. ob.). This is the largest number of singing males found in the Lower Valley in at least the last 10 years. The 2 Tamaulipas Crows present in Brownsville in the spring remained until at least 11 Jul (m. ob.).

SWALLOWS THROUGH WARBLERS

A pair of Tree Swallows was discovered at Stillhouse Hollow Res., *Bell* 23 Jun (RPi). Pinkston returned 7 Jul to discover 2 juvs., suggesting that the species had nested locally. A pair of Northern Rough-winged Swallows with 4 fledglings was found using cavities on a World War II ship in *Orange* 17 Jun (RPe) providing a very rare UTC nesting record. An ad. White-breasted Nuthatch with one fledgling in *Wheeler* 1 Jun (EK, RSc) was only the 3rd nesting record for the Panhandle. A Cactus Wren wandered e. to *DeWitt* 23 Jun (DM), a site where the species has not been recorded since 1984. A House Wren lingered until 1 Jun at Midland (m. ob.). Muschalek found 10 Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, including nests with young, in a mesquite woodland in *DeWitt* 9 Jun, providing a new nesting record for the county. Amazingly, a Wood Thrush was heard singing at Santa Ana 20 Jun (BC, TB). Freeman had suspected that a robin that he had heard singing on several occasions over the previous year in Gonzales, *Gonzales* was a **Clay-colored Robin**. On 9 Jul, he was finally able to confirm his suspicions when he observed the bird. A Gray Catbird in El Paso 7 Jul was quite a surprise (JPa). A lingering Brown Thrasher was at High I., *Jefferson* 15 Jun (DV). Puzzling was an Orange-crowned Warbler at Port Aransas, *Nueces* on a late date of 8 Jun (WS). A late-migrating Yellow Warbler was on Galveston I. 16 Jun (JSt). More interesting were a singing male Yellow Warbler in Amarillo, *Randall* 14 Jun (KS) and another at White River L., *Crosby* 15 Jun (m. ob.). Startling was a singing Myrtle Warbler found at an abandoned farm house in *Deaf Smith* 14 Jun (KS). The farmhouse had only a few half-dead trees and was surrounded by much open grassland and cultivated fields. A Yellow-throated Warbler in nw. *Bexar* 5 Jun (*vide* GS) was away from any appropriate nesting habitat. To continue the list of unexpected warblers in nw. Texas this summer was an American Redstart at White River L., *Crosby* 15 Jun (AF). Other out-of-place

American Redstarts were in El Paso 4 Jun (JPa), on a private ranch in n. *Presidio* 6 Jun (KBR), and at McKittrick Canyon, *Culberson* 20 Jun (J&LW).

Male Prothonotary Warblers were found in two locations in the s. third of the state where nesting is not known. One was at Santa Margarita Ranch, *Starr* 6 Jul (JA), and the other was near Moulton, *Lavaca* 9 Jul (BFr). Inexplicable was a MacGillivray's Warbler in *Donley* 29 Jun (RSc). More exciting was the discovery of a lone male plus two pairs of **MacGillivray's Warblers** 12 Jun (KBr et al.) in the Davis Mountains Preserve. On 12 Jul, a pair was observed feeding young fledglings, providing Texas with its first nesting record. A Red-faced Warbler was present in the vicinity of Boot Spring, Big Bend 24 Jul+ (†JDo et al.). Although quite rare in recent years, at least 2 male Painted Redstarts were present in the Chisos Mountains, *Brewster* 22 Jul+ (G&NC et al.). Over seven pairs of Yellow-breasted Chats were discovered around White River L., *Crosby* 15 Jun (m. ob.). Four Yellow-breasted Chats were found in *Lubbock* 6 Jul, including a pair feeding young, for a first county nesting record. Single Yellow-breasted Chats were located in *Lynn* 20 Jul (BrB, RK) and Palo Duro Canyon 17 Jul (KS), the latter providing the 2nd summer record for that location.

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES

A territorial male Summer Tanager at the headquarters of the Davis Mountains Preserve was well above the normal elevational range of this species (*vide* KBr). Quite late was a male Western Tanager in *Lubbock* 8 Jun (AF). A very early fall migrant Western Tanager was in the Franklin Mts. 1 Jul (JPa). A White-collared Seedeater was seen and heard at Bentsen 22 Jun (D&LE), providing a rare sighting from *Hidalgo*. Perhaps the bird of the season (although there is some stiff competition yet) was a territorial male **Yellow-faced Grassquit** that took up residence along the Rio Grande Hiking Trail in Bentsen 8-29 Jun (†, ph. KN, RD, m. ob.), providing the 2nd record for Texas. This bird proceeded to build a nest, although it never attracted a female. This summer saw two *Zonotrichia* species linger to record-late dates. A Harris's Sparrow was found in Elgin, *Bastrop* 1 Jun (JL)—more than a month after this species typically departs. Late White-crowned Sparrows were noted across the state. Single individuals lingered in *Lubbock* to 3 Jun (AF) and Austin to 7 Jun (ML), but these were overshadowed by a singing male in *Lampasas*, *Lampasas* 19 Jun (DC)!

Two pairs of Indigo Buntings were present at Brazos Bend, *Fort Bend* during Jun (*vide* DH), which is s. of the normal breeding range. A wandering Indigo was on Galveston I. 16 Jun (JSt). Indigo Buntings made news in the Panhandle and South Plains as well. Up to 11 birds, including fledglings, were at White River L., *Crosby* 15 Jun (m. ob.), and 2 territorial males were in a separate *Crosby* location 27 Jun (RL). Adults feeding young were discovered in *Lubbock* 6 Jul (AF) and 6+ singing male Indigos were in Palo Duro Canyon throughout the season, including one fledgling 3 Jul (KS). Varied Buntings wandered outside their normal range to El Paso 3 Jul (JPa), for a 3rd county record, and another was on a unit of the Lower Rio Grande Valley N.W.R., *Hidalgo* 8 Jul (JA).

A Yellow-headed Blackbird at Mitchell L. 21 Jul (HR) was an unexpected summer visitor. A rare summer occurrence was a male Brewer's Blackbird in *Lipscomb* 6 Jun (KS). Bronzed Cowbirds has apparently become established in the *Lubbock* area, with young tended by Northern Cardinals and Red-winged Blackbirds reported this season (m. ob.). A singing male Scott's Oriole was very unexpected near L. Alan Henry, *Garza* 30 Jun (BrB, RK). Stunning was a female **Common Redpoll** feeding in a Galveston backyard 18-19 Jun (ph. I&DB, †RW). This sighting closely follows a late spring record from *Cameron*; however, examination of photos showed that these birds were different individuals. Lesser Goldfinches continue to expand their range northward, with nesting reported from *Lubbock* 22 Jun (AF) and individuals in Amarillo and in *Gray* during the period. Astonishing was an ad. male **Lawrence's Goldfinch** at Guadalupe Mountains N.P., *Culberson* 5-7 Jun (†, ph., JW), providing a first summer record for the state. All previous state records have been associated with winter irruptions, with the latest date being 10 Mar. American Goldfinches made unexpected summer occurrences in the w. half of the state. A pair was in the lowlands of the Guadalupe Mts. 14 Jun (CH), one was in the Davis Mountains Resort 21-23 Jun (M&ME), and another was in *Lynn* 20 Jul (BrB, RK).

UNDOCUMENTED RARITIES

The following Texas Bird Records Review Species was reported without documentation: one Red-faced Warbler in Big Bend 29 Jun.

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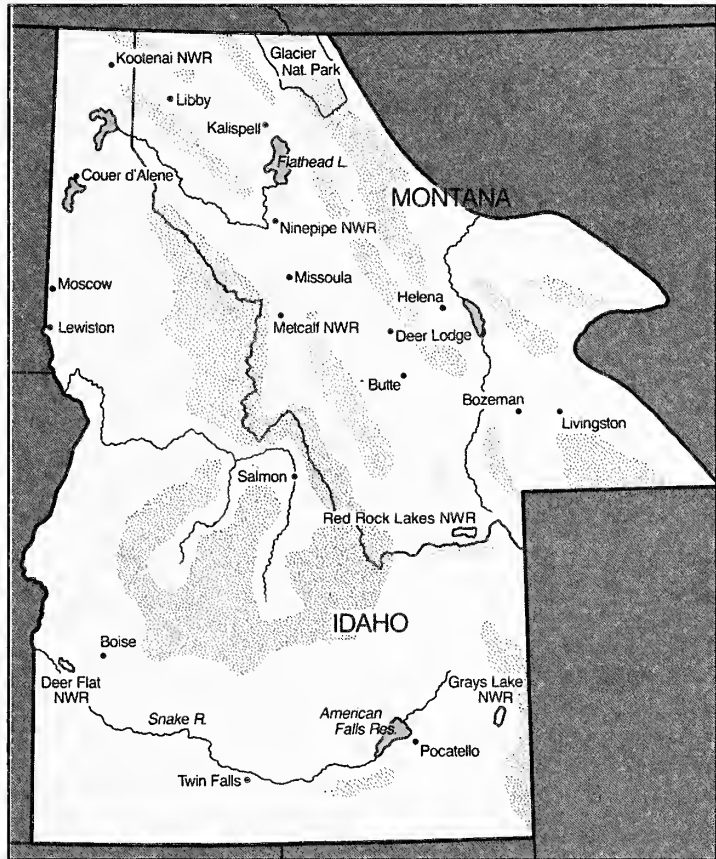
As is often the case, stark contrasts in climate played out across the Region in the summer of 2002. Northern locations reported unseasonably cool and wet weather throughout June and early July. Not only did these adverse conditions delay migration, but they were also implicated in nest failures in west-central Montana. On the other hand, it was unusually warm and dry in southern Idaho and southwestern Montana. Irrigation drawdowns depleted many inadequately filled streams and reservoirs, leaving water-bird nests high and dry. All locations agreed that mid-July was unusually hot, and record-high temperatures soared into the triple digits for a week or more in some areas. Late July thunderstorms brought welcome relief to northern Idaho and western Montana but

failed to reach drought-stricken areas in southern Idaho and southwestern Montana.

Abbreviations: Camas (Camas N.W.R., Jefferson, ID); Latilong (area encompassed by one degree latitude and one degree longitude used in mapping bird distribution in both Idaho and Montana).

GREBES THROUGH OWLS

Out-of-range Clark's Grebes showed up in *Kootenai*, ID 2 Jun (JW) and Three Forks, MT 12 Jun (EH, RW). Uncommon but not unexpected were American White Pelicans in *Lake*, MT (DC) and *Nez Perce*, ID (TG), but a flock of 20 in Somers, *Flathead*, MT 9 Jun (DC) was very unusual. Since there are no modern-day nesting records in nw. Montana, a nonbreeding pair of Trumpeter Swans that summered near Whitefish was especially interesting (JP). Two Long-tailed Ducks reported near Lewiston, ID 8 Jul (KC) provided a rare summer record. A pair of Merlins



that successfully nested in Kalispell, MT (BK) represented a rare breeding record for the Region and latilong first. Two pairs of Sandhill Cranes summered at Weippe Prairie, Clearwater (DD), noteworthy because they have not nested in n. Idaho in over 100 years. Since they are typically rare fall migrants, single American Golden-Plovers seen in Jefferson, ID 2 Jun (GR) and Flathead, MT 24 Jun (DC) were surprising. Black-necked Stilts bred in Flathead, MT for the 2nd consecutive year (DC), but nesting was unsuccessful. The only Upland Sandpipers reported were a pair in Valley, ID 13-27 Jul (RLR, CS) and one in Jefferson, ID 27 Jul (GR); they are likely the Region's most endangered breeding bird. Coming in way ahead of schedule was a rare Whimbrel at A.F.R. 25 Jul (CT).

Several Caspian Terns reported in Broadwater, Gallatin, and Madison 16 Jun—28 Jul (EH, JP, RW) were interesting; they are rare but increasingly reported in sw. Montana. Single Band-tailed Pigeons stopped in Latah 1 Jun (TB) and Gem 7-11 Jul (FZ), two of the Gem State's most consistent locations for these rare visitors. A colony of at least 9 Eurasian Collared-Doves remained near American Falls, ID throughout the season (FB); breeding was likely but not yet confirmed. A White-winged Dove seen near Boise 13 Jul (GK) provided Idaho's 4th record. Idaho's only reported Yellow-billed Cuckoos were in Jefferson 5 Jun (GR) and Madison 23 Jun (CW), but much more unusual was one in Madison, MT 22-26 Jul (MB). Seldom reported away from conifer forests in mts., a Flammulated Owl visited the Bitterroot Valley, MT 11 Jun (WT).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH CROSSBILLS

Least Flycatchers were discovered at new locations in Idaho's Blaine, Clark, Fremont, Jefferson, and Shoshone 23 Jun—20 Jul. Are they expanding their range in the Gem State, or are we becoming more adept at finding them? Usually far less than annual, Philadelphia Vireos made their best showing ever. One found at Camas 4-6 Jun (MCR, †CT) provided Idaho's 2nd record, and singles were reported in Montana near Whitefish 16-17 Jun (DB) and Bigfork 21 Jun (BR). A Blue Jay in Shoshone 4 Jul (TG) was noteworthy, since confirmed breeding in Idaho is lacking. A rare Purple Martin discovered in Somers 10 Jun (DC) represented a first record for nw. Montana. A Winter Wren near Livingston, MT 1 Jun (m. ob.) represented a first for Latilong 39. Northern Mockingbirds were reported in Idaho's Owyhee 18 & 23 Jul (CS) and Ada 30 Jul

(RM), but one that visited Dillon, MT 8-22 Jul (JK) was much more unusual.

The Region's first Blue-winged Warbler, a singing ad. male, was in Custer, ID 14-15 Jun (CN, m. ob.). Both states reported rare Tennessee Warblers: one stopped at Camas 4 Jun (DCI) and another was in Helena, MT 1-3 Jun (HZ). A Northern Parula seen in Butte 9 Jun (†JM) provided Idaho's 6th record. Rare Chestnut-sided Warblers visited Idaho at Camas 4-5 Jun (MJ) and in Lemhi 16 Jul (DSc). Ovenbirds made a great showing, with 4 in Idaho and one in Montana 1-21 Jun. Idaho's 6th Summer Tanager stopped at Camas 12 Jun (MCR). A Field Sparrow reported near Bozeman, MT 12-13 Jul (EA) represented a first for Latilong 38 and one of only a few records in the Region. The Sage Sparrow colony discovered in May near Bannack, Beaverhead, MT remained throughout the summer, and subsequent searches turned up other colonies nearby. Away from Idaho's long-standing colony in Marsing, the only Great-tailed Grackle reported was found

in Boise 20 Jul (MC). A Purple Finch that showed up in Benewah, ID 2 Jun (JW) was significant; they are rare but increasingly reported in the Region's north. Both unusually early and far s. of typical range were 3 White-winged Crossbills in Ada, ID 21 Jul (RB, JC).

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Mountain West



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This summer, almost all areas in the Region experienced one of the driest and hottest periods since the recording of weather data began over a century ago. In areas such as Pueblo, there was only a total of 5 cm of moisture for the whole year. This was typical of the lower elevations of the Region. Forest fires burned record numbers of acres in Colorado and continued through the summer beyond July, making national news and limiting access to some birding areas. Irrigation and domestic storage reservoirs were at very low levels.

The effects of these natural disasters (most of which were anthropogenic) on birdlife were many. The breeding season was a total loss in montane areas swept by fire; on the other hand, wandering failed breeders produced novel records for various locales. Fish die-offs attracted pelicans, gulls, vultures, and other piscivorous species along the reservoirs and rivers, but waterfowl nesting was clearly reduced. Downstream of Pueblo, the Rio Grande River below the Alamosa and

Arkansas Rivers was almost dry or at record-low flow rates. If it had not been for irrigation and domestic water releases, the rivers would have dried completely by mid-June. All sightings in this report are from Colorado unless otherwise indicated.

LOONS THROUGH RAPTORS

An imm. **Brown Pelican** was at Big Meadows Reservoir, *Mineral* 2 Jul (KG, MPo), consistent with 100+ reports from Arizona this season, the influx attributed to prey scarcity in the Sea of Cortez. There are over 10 previous state records.

Great Egrets in Wyoming, where rare, included one or 2 ads. at Saratoga L., *Carbon* all summer (GB, DF, RL), one at Grand Teton N. P. 10-12 Jun (DP), and one at Cheyenne 11 Jun (SJD). A Green Heron was near Casper, WY 2 (CEM) & 20 Jun (DF), and another was at Cheyenne 24 Jul (GJ). A late Greater White-fronted Goose was at Ft. Collins, *Larimer* 27 May—1 Jun (NK). Rare in summer, a Ross's Goose was at Fruitgrower's Res., *Delta* 22 Jul (JB). A Ring-necked Duck was rare at Windy Gap Res., *Grand* 27 Jun (DJ). North of normal range, an ad. Mississippi Kite was in Holyoke, *Phillips* 4 Jun (BK). Broad-winged Hawks are unusual in summer in the Region, so the following sightings were noteworthy: a first-year bird at Tamarack Ranch, *Logan* 2 Jun (NKr), a pair in the Bear Lodge Mts., WY 18 Jun (NB), and a second-

year bird near Wetmore, *Custer* 19 Jul (BKP, CLW).

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH FLYCATCHERS

A Snowy Plover was w. of Laramie, WY 22 Jul (GJ). A late White-rumped Sandpiper was at Cheyenne, WY 11 Jun (SJD). An ad. Short-billed Dowitcher was at Brunner L. in Broomfield 31 Jul (DCE, DAL). East of normal, a Band-tailed Pigeon was in Cottonwood Canyon, *Baca/Las Animas* 22 Jun (JN). An intermontane Eurasian Collared-Dove was in Gunnison 21 Jul (SO). A White-winged Dove was at a feeder in Ft. Collins 22 Jun (FK), and a singing Inca Dove was in Rye, *Pueblo* 20 Jul (CLW, BKP, DS). Three Yellow-billed Cuckoos were at Black Hills N.F. near Hulett, *Crook*, WY 23 Jun (DF, NB).

Three Flammulated Owls were in *Carbon*, WY 12-27 Jun (KB, DF, CEM, BS). Two Magnificent Hummingbirds were in Colorado, one in *Mesa* 4-5 Jul (NKe) and one in *Larimer* 8 Jul (HH). Two Black-chinned Hummingbirds observed 10-20 Jun were the first for *Grand* (DJ). An Eastern Phoebe was at Worland, WY 13 Jul (RS). A pair of Vermilion Flycatchers was in Cottonwood Canyon 23 Jun (JC). Scissor-tailed Flycatchers included: a pair s. of Lamar, *Prowers* since May that fledged 3 young 11 Jul (TB); an ad. with 3 young e. of Holly, *Prowers* 14 Jul (SS); and single birds in *Chaffee* 12 Jun (J&SF) and *Baca* 26 Jul (KS).

VIREOS THROUGH THRUSHES

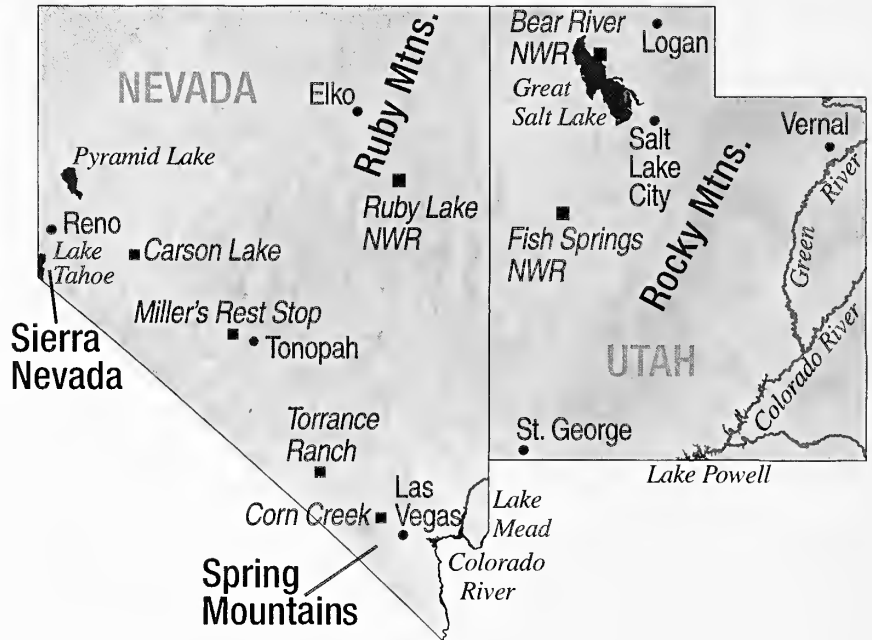
A pair of **White-eyed Vireos** fledged 2 young in Gregory Canyon in Boulder 11 Jul (BK, m. ob.), a first state breeding record. Also, a singing White-eyed was in Rye, *Pueblo* 16 Jun—31 Jul (DS). Extraordinary was a female **Yellow-throated Vireo** paired with a Plumbeous Vireo; the female was later seen on a nest in Poudre Canyon, w. of Ft. Collins, *Larimer* 3-30 Jun (NKr, DAL, RH). A first nesting record? A Cassin's Vireo was in Colorado City, *Pueblo* 21 Jul (DS). A late Steller's Jay was in Cottonwood Canyon 22 Jun (JN). An imm. male Purple Martin was in Ovid, *Sedgwick* 5 Jun (TL); there are no breeding records of the species for e. Colorado. Canyon Wrens nested for the first time in *Eagle* this year (JM). A singing Winter Wren was in the Wet Mts., near L. Isabel, *Custer* 5 Jul (BKP). A Veery was singing in Rye 16-17 Jun (DS). A **Wood Thrush** was found at Little America, in sw. Wyoming, in early Jun, an excellent find (RCH).

Great Basin

WARBLERS THROUGH CROSSBILLS

A singing male **Golden-winged Warbler** was at Black Hills N.F., near Hulett, *Crook*, WY 17-23 Jun (MR, DF). Late migrant warblers included a male Black-throated Blue Warbler in Denver 10 Jun (MB); a male Blackpoll Warbler at Colorado City, *Pueblo* 4 Jun (DS); a male Prothonotary Warbler in Ft. Collins 1 Jun (NKR); and a male Kentucky Warbler in Ft. Collins 7-9 Jun (NKR). The male Hooded Warbler found in late May in *Montezuma* was still present 2 Jun (*vide SA*), and a female Hooded Warbler was at Tamarack Ranch, *Logan* 2 Jun (NKR). Two male (one ad. and one first-year) Summer Tanagers were in Pueblo 13-14 Jun (VAT). Four singing Cassin's Sparrows were e. of Torrington, *Goshen*, WY 21 Jun (DF, RL); apparent numbers in Colorado were much reduced by the extreme drought. North of normal, 2 ad. and 3 juv. Black-throated Sparrows were in Loveland, *Larimer* 26 Jun—3 Jul (NK, DAL, RH). A Northern Cardinal was singing in the Bear Lodge Mts., WY 18 Jun (NB). A male Painted Bunting was in Cottonwood Canyon, *Baca/Las Animas* 23 Jun (JC). A male Baltimore Oriole was at Florence, *Fremont* 11 Jul (MPe). A pair of White-winged Crossbills was found breeding in *Eagle* 29 Jun (TJ, DJ).

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The extended drought in the Great Basin continued through the summer season. Water levels in many streams, lakes, and reservoirs reached all-time lowest recorded levels. There were very few bird reports on the Internet birdlines during the season and even fewer summer reports submitted. It is difficult to speculate to what extent the continuing high heat and drought influenced the distribution of birds in the Region—or rather the activity of birders.

Abbreviations: Ash Meadows (Ash Meadows N.W.R., *Nye*, NV); Corn Cr. (Corn Creek, Desert N.W.R., *Clark*, NV); H.B.V.P. (Henderson Bird Viewing Preserve, *Clark*, NV); Hurricane S.P. (Hurricane/SR-9 Sewer Ponds, *Washington*, UT); Lytle (Lytle Ranch Preserve, *Washington*, UT); Miller's R.A. (Miller's Rest Area, *Esmeralda*, NV); Red Hills G.C. (Red Hills G.C., *St. George*, *Washington*, UT); S.M.M.W.P. (Scott M. Matheson

Wetlands Preserve, *Moab*, *Grand*, UT); S.S.G.S.L. (South Shore of the Great Salt Lake, *Salt Lake*, UT), Sunset Park (Sunset Park, *Las Vegas*, *Clark*, NV).

LOONS THROUGH TERNS

There were two reports of Common Loons summering in the s. part of the Region: Ash Meadows 5 Jul (JC) and 19 Jul+ at the recently constructed Sand Hollow Reservoir, *Washington*, UT. Two to three pairs of Eared Grebes successfully fledged 8 young at the H.B.V.P. in s. Nevada (RS). Great Egrets are irregular during the summer in Utah, so one at the James W. Fitzgerald W.M.A., *Toole*, UT 28 Jul was noteworthy (KCh et al.). Blue-winged Teal, a scarce but regular summer visitor to the Region, were reported from two Nevada counties (*Clark*, *Washoe*) and two Utah counties (*Wasatch*, *Washington*), with a high count of 10 observed at H.B.V.P. 6 Jul (RS).

A **White-tailed Kite** was reported from Locomotive Springs W.M.A., *Box Elder*, UT (†JN). This would be the 4th Utah record (p. a.). A pair of Common Black-Hawks was seen along the N. Fork of the Virgin R., *Zion N.P.* on 21-22 Jun (DH). It is not known whether these black-hawks were nesting or were post-nesting visitors to the area. Although Common Black-Hawks have recently nested in other riparian areas within *Washington*, UT, it has been over 30 years since the last

confirmed nest in the Zion National Park area. Red-shouldered Hawks were reported from Corn Cr. 22 Jun (RS) and Parker Ranch Preserve, Nye, NV 7 Jul—7 Aug (LC). A single Zone-tailed Hawk was observed at an elevation of 3486 m at Bald Mountain, Great Basin N.P., White Pine, NV 31 Jul (JF).

Common Moorhens are uncommon and localized permanent residents in the s. portion of the Region, so ads. with 2 fledged young at H.B.V.P. 7 Jul (RS) and an ad. and juv. at Berry Springs Marsh, Washington, UT 16 Jul (RF) were noteworthy. Snowy Plovers were reported from Soda L., Churchill, NV 14 Jun (TL) and from Ash Meadows 5 Jul (JC), while at S.S.G.S.L. an incredible count of 129 individuals was made 26 Jul (AN, DO et al.). The first southbound Lesser Yellowlegs in Nevada were reported from Ash Meadows 5 Jul (JC), and the first in Utah were observed at S.S.G.S.L. 8 Jul (AN, DO et al.). A very early, or perhaps late, Solitary Sandpiper was seen at Lemmon Valley, Washoe, NV 24 Jun (TL, JT). A well-documented Semipalmated Sandpiper was observed at the H.B.V.P. 12 Jun (†RS). The only Baird's Sandpiper reported during the summer season was observed at the Hurricane S.P. 28 Jul (KCo, RF).

An ad. light-morph **Parasitic Jaeger** was observed at Deseret Ranch, Rich, UT 6-13 Jun (p. a., MS et al.). If accepted by the records committee, this would be the 9th record of Parasitic Jaeger in Utah, with most of the observations occurring in Aug and Sep. Lone Franklin Gulls were reported on somewhat early dates in Churchill, NV 26 Jun and Washington, UT 16 Jul. Two rare **Least Terns** were observed flying over Crystal Res. at Ash Meadows 20 Jun (p. a. SG). This report followed a strong spring season with two Least Tern reports in Utah. Black Terns are rare migrants through sw. Utah, so an ad. observed at the Hurricane S.P. 22 Jul (KCo, RF) was notable.

DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Several White-winged Doves were reported n. of their breeding range during the summer season. The first was found at Miller's R. A. 2 Jun (DT), another was observed in Moab, Grand, UT 14 Jul (DF), and a 3rd was reported from along the Jordan R., Salt Lake, UT 20 Jul (JHo). The only Yellow-billed Cuckoo reported during the summer season was seen at Corn Cr. 22 Jun (RS). Black Swifts continued their unusual presence in Washington, UT, with between 7 and 23 individuals observed flying over the Washington Fields 4-16 Jun (RF, KW, KG, MG). A single Black Swift was also seen flying over Kolob Res.,

Washington, UT 29 Jun (RF). The major spring flight of Vaux's Swifts continued into the summer season, with a single individual observed at South Fork Pinto Cr., Washington, UT 9 Jun (S&PS). Reports of Anna's Hummingbirds are becoming increasingly common in the Great Basin, and this summer season was no exception, with an ad. male observed visiting a feeder in Reno, NV 23 Jun (D&AM).

Although bird sightings were relatively few during the summer reporting season, there were many noteworthy woodpecker reports. First, a pair of Lewis's Woodpeckers was found nesting in an aspen cavity near Kolob Res., Washington, UT 8 Jun (JJ et al.). The site was revisited 29 Jun, and the ads. were observed feeding young. At this time an additional nest with young was also located (RF). These are the first confirmed breeding records of Lewis's Woodpeckers in Washington, UT. A well-described **Red-headed Woodpecker** was found at White Pine L., Cache, UT 7 Jul (†RR). This bird was last reported 27 Jul (EJ). This is one of only a handful of records for this rare species in Utah and represents the first Cache sighting. Black-backed Woodpeckers are extremely rare in the Great Basin, and, as contributor Will Richardson noted, "it may be arguable whether or not the w. slope of the Carson Range, NV constitutes the Great Basin." Nevertheless, Will's finding of two active nests in the Tahoe Basin, in the Carson Mts., is worthy of note. The first nest was located 24 Jun near Marlette L., Washoe, and the 2nd nest was located 25 Jun at Logan House Cr., Douglas (WR).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH WAXWINGS

Unusually high numbers of Olive-sided Flycatchers continued to be seen at lowland migrant traps, with the last report of the season from Corn Cr. 11 Jun (RS). A pair of Vermilion Flycatchers was observed feeding a fledgling throughout the season at Red Hills G.C. (m. ob.). A juv. Vermilion Flycatcher was found at Corn Cr. 26 Jul (RS). An Eastern Kingbird was reported from the Provo Airport Dike, Utah 15 Jul (KCh). A somewhat late migrating Cassin's Vireo was observed along the Virgin R., Washington, UT 3 Jun (KCo, RF). A Red-eyed Vireo, first reported in late May, lingered at Corn Cr. through 3 Jun (DT, RS, †C&RT).

A late migrating Swainson's Thrush observed at Corn Cr. 9 Jun (RS) added to the unusually high numbers reported from Clark during the spring season. A Brown Thrasher was observed at Miller's R.A. 1-2 Jun (J&KB,

DT). Another Brown Thrasher was reported from Sunset Park 23 Jun (ST). Bendire's Thrashers are very rare summer residents in sw. Utah, so a juv. reported from the Beaver Dam Slope, Washington 14 Jun was notable.

WARBLERS THROUGH TANAGERS

There were an incredible 27 warbler species reported in the Great Basin Region during the spring season; and the summer season continued with a strong warbler showing. A Blue-winged Warbler was reported without details from Sunset Park 11 Jun (CP, *fide* CT). A Lucy's Warbler was observed in N. Cottonwood Canyon, San Juan, UT 10 Jun (DF). A **Northern Parula** was photographed and banded at Capitol Reef N.P., Wayne, UT 16 Jul (TC et al.). Quite unusual for spring, a male **Black-throated Blue Warbler**, was banded in Sheep Cr. Canyon, Daggett, UT 4 Jun (RN et al.). A male Black-throated Green Warbler was a good find at Corn Cr. 2 Jun (RS), and an errant Black-and-white Warbler was observed at Cave Lake S.P., White Pine, NV 14 Jun (RB). An imm. American Redstart was reported from Corn Cr. 1 Jun, and an ad. female was observed there 9-19 Jun (RS). An ad. male American Redstart graced the Jordanelle Wetlands, Wasatch, UT through 30 Jun (b. 7 Jun; RN et al., m. ob.). A male **Prothonotary Warbler** was observed at Corn Cr. 8-9 Jun (†RS). An errant **Worm-eating Warbler** was mist-netted and banded at S.M.M.W.P. 25 Jun by Utah Division of Wildlife Resources personnel (*fide* DF). A single Ovenbird and a Northern Waterthrush were reported from Corn Cr. 9 Jun (RS). Summer Tanagers are rare anywhere outside the extreme s. portion of the Region, so a male and female were nice extralimital finds at Newspaper Rock, San Juan, UT 10 Jun (DF).

SPARROWS THROUGH FINCHES

Rufous-crowned Sparrows are rare permanent residents in extreme s. Nevada and sw. Utah. The only report of this very local species was of 2 from the lower slopes of the Virgin Mt. range, Clark, NV 2 Jun (JC). There were two unusual mid-Jun sightings of White-throated Sparrows in the Region: Corn Cr. 10-11 Jun (WF, RS) and Red Hills G.C. 15 Jun (SS). Rose-breasted Grosbeaks continued a recent trend with a strong summer showing in the Region. They were found at four Nevada locations: a female at Miller's R.A. 1 Jun (J&KB) and males at Fallon, Churchill 11 Jun (CG), Corn Cr. 19 Jun (RS), and Oxbow Park, Reno, Washoe 14 Jul (FP). Male Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were also

reported from B.Y.U. Arboretum, *Utah* 7 Jun (DM), Lytle 14 Jun (RF), and Draper, *Salt Lake*, UT 3 Jul (ND). The only reports of Indigo Buntings for the season came from *Esmeralda* and *Clark* in Nevada and *Washington*, UT. A somewhat late migrant Bobolink was a nice find at the H.P.V.P. 2 Jun (JH, CP). Common Grackles were observed in Randolph City Park, *Rich*, UT 2 Jun (JV, DG). Finally, a Pine Siskin was out of place at Ash Meadows 5 Jul (JC).

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Arizona



GREBES THROUGH HAWKS

The **Least Grebe** continued at S.W.T. 1 Jun+ (m. ob.). Still considered casual in summer in s. Arizona, Eared Grebes were 5 at Willcox 1 Jun+ (JBo, MPo, MMS, m. ob.), 2 at the Chandler S.T.P. 7 Jul (PD, DPe), and one on the Gila Indian Reservation 4 Jul (PD, DPe). No nesting was observed. Casual Western Grebes away from known breeding areas were singles at Thatcher S.T.P. 2-7 Jun (JBo, MPo, MMS), Willcox 2-18 Jun (JBo, MPo, MMS), and Amado S.T.P. 21 Jul (JH et al). Even less common, Clark's Grebes were one at Willcox 2-12 Jun (HD, m. ob.) and 2 there 13 Jun (BS, MMS). Several Clark's were observed at Roosevelt L. 14 Jul, where they may breed (TC). Casual in summer away from the L.C.R.V., American White Pelicans included 10 at Tucson 2 Jun (B. Hotchkiss), one at Willcox 4 Jun (BM, DP), 2 at Alamo L. 11 Jun (TM), 50 at Roosevelt L. 20 Jun (JE), and 2 at Marana 25 Jun (MMS). **Brown Pelicans** appeared in unprecedented numbers across the state beginning in the 2nd week of Jun, with reports of up to 50 specific birds during the season. At least 18 were taken to recovery centers (*fide* BB, TC), and numerous others were observed dead along roads sw. of Phoenix (*fide* TC) and elsewhere, indicating substantial mortality. Totals of greater than 25 are very rare. Estimates of 100+ birds in Arizona this summer (TC) reflect high recruitment of juvs. in Sea of Cortez breeding areas and suggest possible prey limitations there. Numerous dispersing juvs. were found in similar straits in far se. California at the same time (*fide* C. Pelizza).

A Neotropical Cormorant at Alamo L. 11 Jun (TM) was nw. of usual areas and likely repre-

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The prolonged drought continued statewide, leading to major forest fires and the closure of most public lands until

mid-July, when the summer rains began. The closures significantly reduced observer coverage of most of the state.

Abbreviations: A.B.C. (Arizona Bird Committee); A.V.S.T.P. (Avra Valley Sewage Treatment Plant); B.T.A. (Boyce Thompson Arboretum); H.R.P. (Hassayampa River Preserve); L.C.R.V. (Lower Colorado River Valley); N.I.R. (Navajo Indian Reservation); P.A.P. (Pinal Air Park pecan grove); S.P.R. (San Pedro River); S.W.T. (Sweetwater Wetlands, Tucson).

sents the farthest nw. record for the state. The expansion of Double-crested Cormorants into White Mtn. lakes continued, with nesting confirmed by 36+ birds and 14 nests at River Res., Greer 15 Jun (MMS, CL et al.). Another 10 were at Scott Res., Pinetop 29 Jul (MPo). A juv. Least Bittern at the Gila R. cobble ponds sw. of Phoenix 29 Jun (TC) confirmed a new local nesting locality. Casual summer wanderers, juv. Tricolored Herons appeared in ne. Tucson 21-28 Jul (BN, ph. MPo, MMS) and Rio Rico 25 Jul (ph. M. Scott). The latter bird relocated to Nogales 28 Jul+ (CG, ph. MPo, MMS). Seventy Cattle Egrets, including fledglings, at Paloma Ranch 6 Jul (TC) were near the original Arizona nesting site. Considered a large number locally, 16 Black Vultures were in sw. Phoenix 13 Jul (CB).

Casual summering waterfowl included: Canada Goose: continuing at Willcox golf course 1 Jun+ (m. ob.); Wood Duck: a possibly feral eclipse male at S.W.T. 27 Jul+ (RD, m. ob.); Cinnamon Teal: several pairs nesting at a new location n. of Palo Verde 29 Jul (TC) and 3 juvs. at S.W.T. 29 Jul (WR); Green-winged Teal: 2 at Willcox 2 Jun (JBo, MPo, MMS), 9 at Thatcher S.T.P. 2-7 Jun (JBo, MPo, MMS), and one at Chandler S.T.P. 7 Jul (PD); and Lesser Scaup: singles at Thatcher S.T.P. 2 Jun (JBo, MPo, MMS) and at S.W.T. 6 Jun (MMS, M. Auslander). The Surf Scoter at Thatcher S.T.P. continued through 7 Jun (JWi et al.).

Ospreys in the s. are always of interest in summer. Individuals were late at Agua Caliente Park, Tucson until 16 Jun (MMS) and early at Chandler S.T.P. 7 Jul (PD) and Nogales 19 Jul+ (MMS, MPo et al.). Mississippi Kites increased to 11 at their s. stronghold along the S.P.R. in St. David by 22 Jul (HL et al.). Thirty-nine fledged Bald Eagles represented a record high for the species in the state (Arizona Dept. of Game & Fish). A male Northern Harrier at Paloma Ranch 21 Jul was a first for Jul in *Maricopa* (BG) and was likely an early migrant. A molting second-year Gray Hawk was there 6 Jul+ (TC). This species is casual at any time in *Maricopa*. A Common Black-Hawk at B.T.A. 14 Jul was away from known breeding areas (TC). After the forests were reopened to the public, a light-morph **Short-tailed Hawk** was relocated at Barfoot Park, Chiricahua Mts. 13 Jul+ (RH et al., ph. CDB, MPo). A Swainson's Hawk near Gila Bend Jul 21 was considered an early migrant (BG).

GALLINULES THROUGH TERNS

A juv. Purple Gallinule at S.W.T. 26 Jul+ (BSc

et al., †MMS, ph. J. Hayes, KK) was one of very few observed statewide in the past decade. A Sora at Gilbert Water Ranch 28 Jul was an early migrant (PD). A Sandhill Crane was again present at Luna L. 15 Jun+ (TC, MMS et al.).

American Avocets at Roosevelt L. 5 Jun (JE) were seen with 4-5 downy young 14 Jul (TC). This is a new nesting location. Three pairs with juvs. were seen 21 Jul along the Santa Cruz R. in Tucson (JL, SL), where nesting has occurred sporadically. Late migrant shorebirds included Spotted Sandpipers at Thatcher S.T.P. 7 Jun (JWi) and Willcox 18 Jun (SH) and 2 Long-billed Curlews at Alamo L. 11 Jun (TM). Early migrant shorebirds included Greater Yellowlegs at S.W.T. 24 Jun (MMS), Solitary Sandpiper at Gilbert 7 Jul (PD), Willet at A.V.S.T.P. 23 Jun (SB), Spotted Sandpiper at Willcox 25 Jun (DS), and single Long-billed Curlews at Roosevelt L. 23 Jun (JE), Fountain Hills 30 Jun (JS), and Gilbert 7 Jul (PD). Early and rare were 2 Sanderlings at Willcox 23 Jul (JC), and a Short-billed Dowitcher at Gila Bend S.T.P. 6 Jul (TC). Unprecedented were 50 Stilt Sandpipers at Willcox 23-25 Jul (JC, DS et al.). This far exceeds typical numbers reported statewide for an entire fall. More timely Short-billed Dowitchers were one at El Mirage 13 Jul (CB) and up to 2 at Willcox 23-25 Jul (JC, BM, DP). Early Wilson's Phalaropes built up from 4 to 14 at Willcox 18-25 Jun (SH, RT, DS).

A second-summer Laughing Gull at Willcox 2 Jun (JBo, MPo, †MMS) provided about the 10th record for se. Arizona. Late or summering Franklin's Gulls were 2 at Willcox 6 Jun (HD) and singles at Thatcher S.T.P. 14 Jun (MMS, BS) and Willcox 20 Jun—13 Jul (RT, DS et al.). A Common Tern at Willcox 23 Jul made the first Jul record for se. Arizona (JC). A Forster's Tern at Willcox 2 Jun (JBo, MMS, vt. MPo) was quite late for se. Arizona. As Least Terns slowly increase as migrants in the state, the straggler dates expand. This season, late singles were at Tucson 28 Jun (RH) and A.V.S.T.P. 23-25 Jul (DW, BM, DP).

DOVES THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS

Eurasian Collared-Doves were in new areas at Flagstaff 13 Jun (P. Friederici), San Simon 29 Jul (RT), and Sonoita 9-23 Jul (J. Gordon, MPo et al., †MMS). A total of 15 was reported statewide. White-winged Doves continue to inch northward, with singles at Flagstaff 2 Jun (F. Brandt) and Eagar 16 Jun (MMS et al.). The Ruddy

Ground-Dove at Hereford was last reported 3 Jun (LG). Pushed by the drought, several Yellow-billed Cuckoos were seen in urban Tucson and Tempe in late Jun (m. ob.). Casual in summer, 3 Long-eared Owls were heard on Mt. Lemmon at 1560 and 2400 m on 12-18 Jul (B. Marshall, CL). Even more unusual, a Short-eared Owl was near Greens Peak in the White Mts. 6 Jun (TM). Up to 2 Buff-collared Nightjars continued near California Gulch through Jul (MK et al., †MMS).

The spring White-eared Hummingbirds continued in Ramsey Canyon and Miller Canyon through the season. A female Berylline Hummingbird that appeared at Ramsey Canyon 2 Jul (MP) was observed nesting 20 Jul+ (TC, TM, ph. SH, MPo, MMS). A male reported in Miller Canyon went undocumented (m. ob.). Hybrid hummingbirds apparently involving Berylline continued in both canyons (m. ob.). A Violet-crowned Hummingbird was in Madera Canyon 15 Jul, a site where the species is scarce (GW). The hummer of the summer was a **Plain-capped Starthroat** in Miller Canyon 29 Jun—2 Jul (SW, ph. TW, MMS, GW). After being banded in Miller, it was relocated in nearby Ash Canyon 12 Jul+ (B. & M. Cox et al.). Lucifer Hummingbirds away from expected Chiricahua Mt. areas were a male at Patagonia 1 Jun (SF et al.), a female in French Joe Canyon 28 Jul (CDB), and a male in the Mule Mts. 30 Jul (RHu). Up to 3 males, a female, and an imm. were in the Huachuca Mts. 1 Jun—30 Jul (TB, BP, SW), where they are being reported with increased frequency. A worn male Calliope Hummingbird in Miller Canyon until 2 Jun (ph. JS) was late, while a male banded along the upper S.P.R. 6 Jul (SW) was early. The first Rufous Hummingbird of fall in the s. (an ad. male) appeared in Ramsey Canyon 27 Jun (MP), about 10 days early. Three more appeared before 7 Jul (MMS, SW). Early ad. male Allen's Hummingbirds were in lower Ramsey Canyon 28 Jun (JHi) and Miller Canyon 29 Jun (SW, TB).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH THRASHERS

We are still unsure of the ne. limit of Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet range in cen. Arizona; therefore, individuals at two different locales at the e. end of Aravaipa Canyon, *Graham* 7 Jun (JWi) represented an apparent range extension e. of the San Pedro R.

A late Olive-sided Flycatcher was along Aspen Cr. near Prescott 10 Jun (CT). Several "Western" Flycatchers were seen in lowland situations in s. Arizona during Jun, with at

least 3 different birds heard singing Pacific-slope songs: one in Marana 10 Jun (RH), one in Scottsdale 15-18 Jun (JBa), and one along Sonoita Cr. 24 Jun (MB). Six others were reported as non-singing; there are virtually no lowland records of Cordilleran from Arizona. Two Sulphur-bellied Flycatchers at French Joe Canyon 3 Jun (MK) were n. of their usual range in se. Arizona, whereas one along the Santa Cruz R. at Tumacacori 6 Jul (G. Martinez) was at an unusually low elevation and out of habitat. The Tropical Kingbird found at S.W.T. during the spring was seen at least through 2 Jun (MPo), but was not found nesting. More unusual for the Tucson Valley, a Thick-billed Kingbird was reported at S.W.T. 28 Jul+ (C. Cathers). Other somewhat extralimital sightings of Thick-billeds this summer included one in California Gulch 26 Jul (SH) and one near Kingfisher Pond, upper S.P.R. 4 Jun (NM). A male Rose-throated Becard was present at the Roadside Rest in Patagonia 4 Jun—15 Jun (JBo et al.); numbers of this scarce species in Arizona have noticeably declined during the past decade.

A very early Cassin's Vireo was in French Joe Canyon 28 Jul (SF). Late lowland Warbling Vireos were reported as follows: 2 in Cave Cr., *Maricopa* 9 Jun (W. Thurber), 2 at Whitlow Dam 13 Jun and one there 27 Jun (JBa). A Western Scrub-Jay at Whitlow Dam 13-20 Jun (JBa) was at an unusually low elevation for the summer season. A flock of 12 Purple Martins was at high elevation in the Santa Catalina Mts. 12 Jul (B. Marshall, CL), a site where they are not known to breed; these birds may have represented individuals ranging up in elevation from breeding areas in the Saguaro-dominated foothills, or possibly early southbound migrants from populations from the pine forests farther north. A Tree Swallow at S.W.T. 22 Jun (SF) was at a very odd location for this season and likely represented a very early southbound migrant. Other early Tree Swallows were noted in Chandler and Gila Bend 6 Jul (TC). A Bank Swallow at S.W.T. 22-23 Jun (vt. SF, MPo)—and possibly the same individual at a pond along the Santa Cruz R. 27 Jun (JL, SL)—represent what may be the first Jun record for se. Arizona; this species doesn't normally arrive southbound until mid-Jul.

A Mountain Chickadee in cen. Phoenix 31 Jun+ (T. Pittman) was out of range for this season and represented a first local summer record. Two pairs of Bushtits nested at an unusually low elevation at Whitlow Dam 13 Jun+ (JBa). Wandering Gray Catbirds were found in the Mule Mts. 7-11 Jun (RHu) and

at Cameron 11-13 Jun (CL); this species is known to breed in Arizona only in the White Mts. A Crissal Thrasher was found at 2100 m elevation on Gray Mt. 13 Jun (CL), which is unusually high for this species anywhere in the state.

WARBLERS THROUGH GOLDFINCHES

An early migrant Orange-crowned Warbler was reported from Ramsey Canyon 29 Jul (MPr). It was a particularly good summer for Northern Parula in s. Arizona, with reports from Dudleyville 4 Jun (F. Smith), Harshaw Cr. 18 Jun (D. Touret), Whitlow Dam 20 Jun (JBa), and South Fork, White Mts. 21 Jul (DR, J. Videle). Amazingly, we received two different reports of Magnolia Warbler: one banded at Empire/Cienega Ranch 19 Jun (JWh) and the other in lower Carr Canyon 23 Jun (HB); there was only one previous Jun record from se. Arizona. A late Townsend's Warbler was at Wickenburg 9 Jun (P. Moulton). Single Black-and-white Warblers, casual in the state during summer, were at Ahwatukee 15 Jul (RD) and at Summerhaven 26 Jul (B. Marshall). Also casual in the se. during Jun, American Redstarts were reported from Kingfisher Pond 4 Jun (NM) and from Patagonia Roadside Rest 9-29 Jun (T. Army, DPe, PD). An above-normal number of Ovenbirds was found, with one in nw. Tucson 1 Jun (T. Meyer), one found dead in Ash Canyon 4 Jun (N. McFarland, *fide* HB), and one at Little Clayhole Res., *Mohave* 8 Jun (TC, CL). The only Northern Waterthrush of the season was one at Kino Springs 2 Jun (MK). Casual in spring and early summer, male Kentucky Warblers were found in French Joe Canyon 3 Jun (LG, MK et al.) and E. Turkey Cr. 23 Jun (RT). Very late MacGillivray's Warblers were at Granite Cr., Prescott 8 Jun (CT) and Whitlow Dam 27 Jun (JBa). Also very late were Wilson's Warblers at Whitlow Dam 13 Jun (JBa) and E. Turkey Cr. 25 Jun (RT). A Red-faced Warbler at French Joe Canyon 30 Jul (JLD) was away from know breeding areas and at an unusually low elevation. The pair of Rufous-capped Warblers that have been present in French Joe Canyon for a few years were seen again all season. They successfully nested and reared at least one young by early Jun (MK et al.). A 2nd nesting began by 7 Jun, and 2 more juvs. were seen being fed by 6 Aug (MK, L. Liese, m. ob.).

A Hepatic Tanager in a Phoenix yard 23 Jul (TC) and up to 2 on Gray Mt. n. of Flagstaff represented first local summer records for this species. A male Scarlet Tanager in a Prescott yard 23-27 Jun was later found dead 8 Jul (R. Davis; *UA); this species is accidental any-

where in the state during the summer season. The ad. male Flame-colored Tanager that was located in Miller Canyon during the spring remained through the period and likely paired with a female Western Tanager, as at least 2 different hybrids were seen by early Jul (SW et al.). A 2nd apparently "pure" Flame-colored was reported from the same locality 10 Jun (SW). The Flame-colored Tanager/hybrid tanager situation in se. Arizona is complex and difficult to resolve.

A White-throated Sparrow with an injured leg lingered at St. David 6 Jun (HD); there were no previous Jun records from se. Arizona. Out-of-season White-crowned Sparrows were at P.A.P. 2 Jun (P. Saloman) and in Gilbert 7 Jul (J. Burns). A Pyrrhuloxia in Prescott 13 Jun (R. Anderson, *fide* CT) was considered accidental locally. Certainly one of the birds of the season was the **Yellow Grosbeak** present at a feeder in Ash Canyon 18-28 Jun (ph. T. Mouras, †JWh); there have been fewer than 15 total records of this vagrant from Mexico, with virtually all coming from Jun or Jul. At least 10 additional Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, combined with the 46 from the spring season, makes this year the best ever for this species in the state. Single Black-headed Grosbeaks in a Phoenix yard 3 Jul (B. Demaree) and at Paloma 6 Jul (TC) were likely very early migrants, as was a Lazuli Bunting in a Scottsdale yard 19 Jul (JBa). The excellent spring for Indigo Buntings also continued into the summer, with one at Whitlow Dam 20 Jun (JBa) and likely breeding reported along Granite Cr. near Prescott (CT). The first Painted Bunting of the summer was an ad. male along the S.P.R. near Charleston 20 Jul (J. Woodley et al.).

Yellow-headed Blackbirds, usually considered rare during the summer in s. Arizona, were reported from at least seven localities during late Jun and early Jul. An ad. male Streak-backed Oriole was once again reported from the lower S.P.R. near Dudleyville 1 Jun (TC, TM), near where this species has nested in the past. Something was definitely going on with Lawrence's Goldfinch this summer, with an unprecedented number of reports received for Jun and Jul: 2 in Ash Canyon 23 Jun (B. Cox), 2 at Whitlow Dam 27 Jun (JBa), one in Miller Canyon 29 Jun (ph. SW, MMS), one in No Name Canyon 30 Jun (RHu), up to 3 in Miller Canyon 3-7 Jul (B. Stocku, JH et al.), one at P.A.P. 10 Jul (R. Hill), one at Willow Tank 22 Jul (H. DeGryss), and one at Arivaca Cienega 26 Jul (M. Scott). Amazingly, there were no previous Jun records, and only one previous Jul record from the se. part of the state.

New Mexico



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Extreme drought conditions continued into summer 2002, with forest and range fires and dry rivers and reservoirs dominating the news, indeed the national news. Breeding birds were affected and many species—especially Neotropical migrants—abandoned the effort and began to wander; scattered July rains, however, allowed some resident species to nest successfully. Several genuine rarities were documented, as was the first successful Aplomado Falcon nest in half a century.

Abbreviations: B.L.N.W.R. (Bitter Lake N.W.R.); Bosque del Apache N.W.R.; E.B.L. (Elephant Butte Lake); L.V.N.W.R. (Las Vegas N.W.R.); Maxwell (Maxwell N.W.R. and vicinity); N.R.T. (n. Roosevelt migrant trap near Melrose); R.G.V. (Rio Grande Valley); R.S. (Rattlesnake Springs area, Eddy); Sevilleta (Sevilleta N.W.R.).

LOONS THROUGH FALCONS

Causing excitement were up to 3 Common Loons summering at Stubblefield L. 7 Jun—31 Jul (DC, JP, JO, BP). Perhaps refugees from drought conditions farther n., American White Pelicans appeared at several locales, including highs of 240 near Mosquero 16 Jun (CR), 40 at E.B.L. 3 Jul (WW), and 26 at Maxwell 22 Jul (DC). High count for Neotropical Cormorant was only 34 at Bosque 21 Jul (CR); one was n. to La Joya 11 Jul (WH). A well-described female *Anhinga* along the Rio Grande in White Rock Canyon, *Sandoval* 1 Jun (SF) furnished the state's 4th record. Noteworthy waterbirds included a Great Egret n. to the Cimarron area 6 Jun (DC), an imm. Little Blue Heron at Bosque 21 Jul (CR), a Tricolored Heron at B.L.N.W.R. 17-31 Jul (GW et al.), and an imm. **Reddish Egret** at Bosque Redondo 7-10 Jun (vt. JO, ph. J. Levy). The ad. **White Ibis** in the Bosque-La Joya area in May was last reported at Bosque 4 Jun (R. Kruidenier). Two imm. **Roseate Spoonbills** at B.L.N.W.R. 24-25 Jul (JM, ph. B. McGee) furnished only the 3rd well-documented New Mexico record and the first since 1984.

Wood Ducks a bit out of range included singles at Stubblefield L. 29 Jun—6 Jul (ph. DC) and near Black L., *Colfax* 30 Jun (CR, PS). Post-breeding ducks of several species arrived unusually early, including 3 Lesser Scaup at Holloman L. 28 Jun (MS, JZ). Unusual were one to 2 Ring-necked Ducks at Tyrone on various dates 2 Jun—28 Jul (EL), as were 3 at Maxwell 13 Jul (BP). A Common Merganser with 4 young was on the Cimarron R. e. of Cimarron 3 Jun (DC).

New Mexico's breeding Osprey population increased to 14 pairs this season, with 12 in the Heron-El Vado area (DS), one at Cochiti (M. Watson), and a new one at Ramah (T. Johnson); none were known prior to 1990. Perhaps drought-related, Osprey productivity was poor in the Heron-El Vado area (DS), while in *Colfax*, only one of three active Bald Eagle nests was successful (SOW). Typical of dry years, there was no evidence of Northern Harriers breeding in the Pecos Valley, including at B.L.N.W.R. (WH, GW). A juv. **Gray Hawk** was in Guadalupe Canyon 5 Jul (JP, JO), the 2nd consecutive year for the species there. Two Common Black-Hawks were n. in the Pecos Valley to Santa Rosa 1 Jun (DE, BN), while in *Lincoln* a record 10 occupied territories were in the R. Ruidoso, R. Bonito, and Hondo R. valleys, with 6 active nests under observation in Jun (DS, R. Troy). In the sw., black-hawks continued to thrive in the Cliff-Gila Valley, where there were 28 pairs in Jun (SS), and an active nest was near Mimbres 10 Jun (C. Hayes). Unusual was a Zone-tailed Hawk near Radium Springs 2 Jun and 9 Jul (MS, JZ). The resident **Aplomado Falcon** pair in s. New Mexico fledged 3 young by 31 Jul (RM), marking the first successful nesting by naturally occurring Aplomados in New Mexico—and the United States—in 50 years. This historic natural recolonization continued to be threatened by proposed releases of hundreds of captive Aplomados of tropical lowland origin into the high desert grasslands of w. Texas and s. New Mexico.

PHEASANTS THROUGH CUCKOOS

A Ring-necked Pheasant with chicks on Ponil Cr. near Cimarron 20 Jul (ph. DC) furnished one of the few breeding records for *Colfax*. Most encouraging was evidence of up to 5 White-tailed Ptarmigan on Latir Peak 11 Jun (ER, BL), where last documented in 1978. Although rarely reported, a small population of Blue Grouse persists in the mountains e. of Mogollon, where 2 were near Silver Creek Divide 15 Jul (J. & M. Carter). The 3 Lesser Prairie-Chickens 5 km ne. of Broadview, *Curry* 11 Jun (LS) were at the n. fringe of the

currently occupied New Mexico range; overall, the species has been nearly eliminated from over 80% of its historic range. Snowy Plovers peaked with 371 at B.L.N.W.R. 21 Jun (GW) and 18 at Holloman L. 14 Jun (GE); Snowies elsewhere were up to 5 at Maxwell 4-15 Jun (DC), 2 at Springer L. 13 Jul (JP, JO), and 5 at Sumner L. 7 Jun (JO). Early was a Semipalmated Plover at Stubblefield L. 31 Jun (DC). Mountain Plovers with chicks were near Costilla, *Taos* 27 Jun (BL), Farley 13 Jul (JP, JO), and Santo Domingo 11 Jun (WW). Early was a Solitary Sandpiper at Sevilleta 11 Jul (WH); one to 2 Solitaries were at Bosque 21 Jul (CR), Luis Lopez 22 Jul (JO), and *Hidalgo* 24 Jul (LM), and 4 were near Pep 25 Jul (LS). Presumably early fall Willets were one near Cimarron 20 Jun (DC) and 7 at B.L.N.W.R. 21 Jun (GW); up to 3 were at E.B.L. by 7 Jul (JP, JO). At least 8 migrant Upland Sandpipers were near Portales 24 Jul (LS). Owing to dry conditions, Long-billed Curlews fared poorly in New Mexico breeding areas, and several appeared in non-breeding areas quite early, including one at Albuquerque 9 Jun (BN) and 51 near Loving 6 Jun (SW). Early were 5 Marbled Godwits at E.B.L. 7 Jul (JP, JO) and one at Springer L. 18 Jul (DC); one at Tyrone 28 Jul (EL) provided a local first. Late were 2 Sanderlings at B.L.N.W.R. 4 Jun (WH); early was one at Stubblefield L. 6 Jul (DC). A flock of about 30 White-rumped Sandpipers frequented Sumner L. 1-7 Jun (DE, BN, WH, JO), and farther w., 10 were near Cimarron 6 Jun (DC) and one at Ruby Ranch near Las Vegas 9 Jun (WW); in the e., 4 were at Portales 1 Jun (JO) and one was at Brantley L. 2 Jun (JO). Unusual for the date and locale were 3 Pectoral Sandpipers at Deming 13 Jul (LM). Late Stilt Sandpipers were singles at Maxwell 4 Jun (DC) and Sumner L. 1 Jun (DE, BN) and 13 at B.L.N.W.R. 7 Jun (GW). Suggestive of local breeding was a winnowing Wilson's Snipe at Springer L. 4 Jun (SOW); 6 were on Ponil Cr. near Cimarron 6 Jun (DC).

Lingering from the spring invasion was a **Laughing Gull** at Sumner L. 4 Jun (ph. WH). Unusual were 14 Forster's Terns at Bosque 3 Jul (WW). Least Terns enjoyed a relatively good breeding season at B.L.N.W.R.—of 11 pairs present, nine successfully hatched chicks, and 17 eventually fledged (JM); elsewhere, 5 Least Terns were at Brantley L. 9 Jun (JO) and one was at Holloman L. 28 Jun (MS, JZ). Black Terns are unexpected anywhere in New Mexico in late Jun, so noteworthy were 2 at Stubblefield L. 15 Jun (DC), 2 at B.L.N.W.R. 21 Jun (GW), and 9 at Maxwell 29 Jun (DC). Eurasian Collared-Doves continued much in

evidence in Silver City and from the R.G.V. eastward (m. ob.); noteworthy were 2 at Los Alamos 7 Jul (*vide* JT). Far n. was a White-winged Dove at Maxwell 27 Jun and 10 Jul (ph. DC); unusual carnivorous behavior by White-wingeds was observed at Roswell, where the doves perched on algal mats in the Spring R. and fed on damselflies attempting to lay eggs (R. Larsen). A vocal Common Ground-Dove was near Radium Springs 6-9 Jun (MS, ph. JZ), while at least 4—and possibly 7—were at Clanton Cienega, Animas Valley, 6 Jun (JP, vt. JO). Yellow-billed Cuckoos where seldom reported included 3 on Perico Cr., *Union* 27 Jun (HS), 2 at Portales 24 Jul (LS), and one on Little Cherry Cr., Pinos Altos Mts. 10 Jul (DF).

OWLS THROUGH BECARDS

A vocal Whiskered Screech-Owl at P.O. Canyon 18 Jun (CL) furnished a local first and the northernmost yet for the Peloncillo Mts. Some 500 Burrowing Owls were at 83 of 131 prairie dog towns visited in *Quay*, *Curry*, and *Roosevelt* through the period (LS), and 29 ads. plus a similar number of young were at one site near Pep 29 Jun (SS); encouraging for the sw. were 10, including 5 juvs., in the s. Animas Valley 17 Jul (JR). Three young Long-eared Owls were in a nest at La Madera, *Sandoval* 15 Jun (ph. R. Gracey). A vocal Northern Saw-whet Owl was on Eagle Peak, *Catron* 15 Jun (JO); breeding-season records in the sw. are scarce. Westerly Chimney Swifts were one at Raton 13 Jul (BP) and 2 at Las Vegas 12 Jun (WW); White-throateds far e. were 4 visiting nests at the Mosquero escarpment 16 Jun (CR) and one at the caprock escarpment near Bellview, *Curry* 11 Jun (LS).

Single male Broad-billed Hummingbirds were n. in the Peloncillo Mts. to P.O. Canyon 13 Jun—31 Jul (CL) and Skeleton Canyon 27 Jun (JO) and e. to Carlsbad 13 Jun and 27 Jul (E. Pierce, *vide* SW). A **Berylline Hummingbird** was visiting thistles in the s. Animas Valley near San Luis Pass 10 Jun (SOW); there is but one previous New Mexico record. Single Magnificents were at four *Grant* sites 7-18 Jul (JP, JO, P. Tabor, S. Scott); in the Sacramento Mts., one was on the R. Penasco 16 Jun (WH). Lucifer Hummingbirds away from their P.O. Canyon stronghold were one each in Skeleton Canyon 28 Jul (JP, vt. JO) and Clanton Canyon 24 Jul (LM). An Anna's in P.O. Canyon through the period was joined by another there 18-19 Jul (CL); other post-breeding Anna's were singles at Deming 12-13 Jul (LM) and Carlsbad 26 Jul (SW). Earliest fall migrant Calliopes were singles at Deming 4 Jul (LM) and at Luis

Lopez (JO) and Radium Springs (MS, JZ) 9 Jul; earliest Rufous returnees were singles at Los Alamos 27 Jun (JT), Manzano Mts. 27 Jun (TH) and Coyote Cr., *Mora* 30 Jun (CR). A totally green-backed male *Selasphorus* hummingbird at Luis Lopez 24-26 Jul (JP, vt. JO) may have been an Allen's; a mostly green-backed Rufous was present at the same time.

A pair of Red-headed Woodpeckers nesting at Carlsbad 28 Jun produced one young by 30 Jul (*fide* SW), apparently the first successful *Eddy* breeding in many years. Noteworthy for the Manzano Mts. were one to 3 Acorn Woodpeckers 18 Jun—17 Jul (TH). Three-toed Woodpeckers are resident in the higher reaches of the Mogollon Mts.; remarkably low, however, was an ad. male near San Francisco Hot Springs 14 Jul (HW). A Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet pair was adding lining to a Guadalupe Canyon nest 11-13 Jun (SOW). An Olive-sided Flycatcher was in the Gallinas Mts. near Corona 15 Jun (HS), where summer residency is possible but not proven. There was good news for endangered Southwestern Willow Flycatchers in the middle R.G.V., with a record 12 territories in the La Joya—Sevilleta area, three territories in new areas n. of Bosque, and a record 56 territories near San Marcial Jun—Jul (Bureau of Reclamation); elsewhere, four pairs on Ponil Cr. 14 Jun—24 Jul (DC) furnished a *Colfax* summer first, beavers created new habitat for a pair at Blackrock near Zuni in Jun (S. Albert), and a single was on the Pecos R. at Villanueva 27 Jun (GM). Now widespread in summer in n. New Mexico, 2-6 Gray Flycatchers were found s. to Reserve (JO), Vick's Peak (HS), White Oaks (SOW), and Pinon (WH) 2-16 Jun. A vocal Dusky Flycatcher was s. to Pumphouse Canyon near Cloudcroft 16 Jun (SW). Far n. and a *Colfax* first was a Black Phoebe nest near Cimarron that produced fledglings by 13 Jul (ph. DC); a reported 40 Black Phoebes were feasting on flies at a Peralta horse barn 13 Jun (KC). There are few verified Eastern Phoebe nests for New Mexico, so noteworthy was a nesting pair at Mills Canyon, *Harding* 25 Jun (HS, DC) that produced at least one fledgling by 16 Jul (ph. DC). Noteworthy for the high elevation were 2 Say's Phoebes at Sandia Crest 9 Jun (BV), where one was reported in May. A pair of Vermilion Flycatchers was ne. to Santa Rosa 7 Jun (JO). A Great Crested Flycatcher near Portales 10 Jul (LS) provided the only report. Thick-billed Kingbirds were notably scarce in Guadalupe Canyon, with but one there 11-13 Jun (SOW) and 2 noted 5 Jul (JP, JO). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher strayed w. to Sumner L. 16 Jul (M. MacRoberts). An ad.

male **Rose-throated Becard** was reported at Las Cruces 6-7 Jun (J. Green, L. Schulte); never verified in New Mexico, this was the first to be reported since 1984.

VIREOS THROUGH PHAINOPEPLA

A strong showing by **White-eyed Vireos** produced singing singles on the Cimarron R. near Cimarron 8 Jul (ph. DC) and on the Gila R. near Gila 17 Jun (HW, DF); another (or the same) was on the Gila R. above Mogollon Cr. 24 Jun (HW). Encouraging were 10 Bell's Vireos at Redrock 4 Jun (RW), and Bell's was described as more plentiful than usual in the Cliff-Gila Valley (SS). Noteworthy Gray Vireos were singles singing in the Caja del Rio area, *Santa Fe* 23 & 28 Jun (JO, JP), 10 at seven sites in the Quebradas area, *Socorro* 6 Jun (*fide* NC), and at least one in Guadalupe Canyon 11-13 Jun (SOW). Unexpected for the date and location were one to 2 Hutton's Vireos in Guadalupe Canyon 11-13 Jun (SOW) and 5 Jul (JP, JO). A Red-eyed Vireo was near Gila 1 Jul (KB, DF).

Blue Jay reports have increased recently in *Colfax*; this season one summered at Maxwell 12 Jun—21 Jul, where it was joined by another 22-31 Jul (ph. DC). Peripheral Black-billed Magpies were singles s. to Peralta 16 Jun (KC), Canyon Blanco, sw. *San Miguel* 29 Jun (JO), and Mills Canyon 16 Jul (DC). Chihuahuan Ravens have only recently been found nesting n. to *Mora* and *Colfax*; this season, nests were documented n. of Wagon Mound (B. Willard) and at several *Colfax* sites, including e. of Springer (B. Willard), s. of Abbott 12 Jun and 11 Jul (DC), and n. of Maxwell 4 Jun (K. Granillo). Additional evidence of Purple Martin colonization of the Sangre de Cristo Mts. was provided by 15 on the Sapello R. at San Ignacio, *San Miguel* 27 Jul (WW) and one near Rowe 8 Jun (CR). Far e. were 2 Violet-green Swallows at the Mosquero escarpment 16 Jun (CR). Owing to construction disturbance, w. Albuquerque's Calabacillas Arroyo Bank Swallow colony was reduced to about 175 nesting pairs 7 Jul (WH). A family group of at least 4 Mexican Chickadees was in Indian Creek Canyon, Animas Mts. 14 Jun (SOW, AC). A Juniper Titmouse at the Mosquero escarpment was far e. of expected. Brown Creepers where seldom reported were singing singles at P.O. Flats, Zuni Mts. 12 Jun (HS) and the Gallinas Mts. near Corona 15 Jun (HS); noteworthy were 12 near Cloudcroft 16 Jun (WH).

Cactus Wrens on their ne. frontier were one in s. *Harding* 21 Jun (DC), 3 e. of Pastura 4 Jun (WH), and one near Rogers, *Roosevelt* 10 Jul (LS). Black-tailed Gnatcatchers in the

sw. were 3 at Redrock 4 Jun (RW) and singles there 4 Jul (JO) and at San Simon Cienega 5 Jul (JP) and Guadalupe Canyon 12 Jun (SOW). Two Townsend's Solitaries were in the Gallinas Mts. 15 Jun (HS), where the species is a regular but rare breeder; noteworthy was a vocal one in the Manzano Mts. 16 Jun (TH). A single Veery near Vadito, *Taos*, 2 Jul (WW) furnished the only report of this scarce breeder; 2 vocal Swainson's Thrushes were in that same area 29 Jun (JP) and 2 Jul (WW). The **Wood Thrush** found at N.R.T. 31 May lingered until 9 Jun (JP, DE, BN, WH, JO, SW). Gray Catbirds in the middle and lower R.G.V. included 2 at Sevilleta 11 Jul (WH) and singles at Bosque 21 Jul (CR) and Radium Springs 24 Jul (JZ). Single Brown Thrashers were near Cimarron 30 Jul (DC) and at Boone's Draw 23 Jul (LS). A pair of Bendire's Thrashers in the Caja del Rio area near Santa Fe 11 Jun (WW) produced at least one fledgling by 23 Jun (vt. JO). Late were 2 Cedar Waxwings at Dawson Cemetery near Cimarron 5 Jun (DC). A Phainopepla wandered n. to Bluewater Cr., Zuni Mts. 11 Jun (HS); another was e. to near Mayhill 18 Jun (SW).

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

Several unusual warblers livened up the season, including single singing Northern Parulas at Corrales 25 Jun (DK) and Quarai 16 Jun (NP), an ad. male **Magnolia Warbler** at N.R.T. 2 Jun (DE, BN), a **Yellow-throated Warbler** at R.S. 21 Jul (BV), a female **Bay-breasted Warbler** at Eagle Cr., *Lincoln* 17 Jun (SW), and single Black-and-white Warblers at N.R.T. 4 Jun (WH) and near Gila 17 Jul (KB). At Corrales on 25 Jun were a singing American Redstart, a singing Ovenbird, and 3 singing Hooded Warblers (DK); single Hoodeds were also there 16 Jun and 16 Jul (DK). Most remarkable was a probable **Canada Warbler**, described as a female, on the Gila R. above Cliff on the very early date of 22 Jul (HW); there are but eight previous New Mexico records and none in fall earlier than 11 Sep. A Red-faced Warbler was n. to Diener Canyon, Zuni Mts. 29 Jun (J. DeLong); in the se., 6 Red-faceds were along the Rio Penasco near Cloudcroft 15-16 Jun (WH). Hepatic Tanagers are scarce in the Manzano Mts., so noteworthy were one near Cedro 30 Jun (JO), a pair in Tajiue Canyon 19 Jun (HS), and one at Quarai 16 Jun (NP); early for the lowlands was one at R.S. 21 Jul (BV). Summer Tanagers in the ne. included singles at Villanueva 27 Jun (GM) and near Sabinoso 16 Jun (CR). Western Tanagers were conspicuous in lowland areas by mid-

Jul, suggesting early abandonment of dry mountains; among the earliest were singles at Silver City 28 Jun (D & MZ), Albuquerque Jul 6 (CR), and Sevilleta 11 Jul (WH). Far e. were 2 Canyon Towhees at Caprock Amphitheater, *Quay* 5 Jun (LS). Two Green-tailed Towhees were in the Gallinas Mts. 15 Jun (HS), the 2nd consecutive summer the species has occurred there; early was a Green-tailed at Corrales 18 Jul (DK). In the Animas Valley, Botteri's Sparrows continued to show recovery from the 2000 fire, with 38 territories (but only 10 in or near the burned area) 1-5 Jul (SOW, PM); in the w. Playas Valley, one Botteri's was singing in atypical habitat 17 Jul (JR). A Rufous-crowned Sparrow was n. in the upper R.G.V. to Orilla Verde 23 Jun (JT). Single Chipping Sparrows returned to La Joya 11 Jul (WH) and P.O. Canyon 13 Jul (CL). Breeding Brewer's Sparrows were confirmed in *Colfax*, with up to 5 males singing in salt-bush at Maxwell 6 Jul, a nest with eggs 12 Jul, and dependant fledglings 31 Jul (ph. DC). A Vesper Sparrow near Pinon 6 Jun (WH) was at the s. edge of the breeding range; Vesper *maxima* were 70 near Fence L. 13 Jun (DK) and 52 near Pecos 8 Jun (CR). Lark Buntings were notably scarce, and likely failed to nest; fall migrants were in *Colfax* by 6 Jul (DC) and *Roosevelt* by 18 Jul (LS). Late for the desert was a White-crowned Sparrow at Deming 10 Jun (LM). A partial survey in the Animas Mts. 14 Jun found 5 singing Yellow-eyed Juncos (SOW, AC), the most reported there in several years.

A Pyrrhuloxia wandered far n. to White Rock Canyon, *Sandoval* 1 Jun (SF). Following a strong spring showing, single male Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were at Jornada 1 Jun (RM), R.S. 2 Jun (JO), and near Gila 29 Jul (DF), and a male and female were together at Silver City 30 Jul (D&MZ). Both Lazuli and Indigo Buntings were present together at several n. sites, including Dawson Cemetery near Cimarron, where there was a Lazuli x Indigo hybrid 4 Jul (ph. DC). Encouraging were 5 Varied Bunting territories in Guadalupe Canyon 11-13 Jun (SOW) and a male at Walnut Canyon, *Eddy* 9 Jun (vt. JO) and 24 Jul (SW). Noteworthy Painted Buntings were one singing near Newkirk, *Guadalupe* 7 Jun (DE, CR), 5 singing at Tucumcari 7 Jun (CR), and one near Three Rivers, *Otero* 28 Jun (MS, JZ). Single Dickcissels at L.V.N.W.R. 9 Jun (WW) and Bosque Redondo 7 Jun (JO) provided the only reports; although searched for, none were detected in *Quay*, *Curry*, or *Roosevelt* all period (LS). A male Bobolink singing in alfalfa near Cimarron 8 & 13 Jul (ph. DC, JO) disappeared when the field was

cut 17 Jul (DC). Brewer's Blackbirds continued their southward expansion, with a pair in Tajiue Canyon, Manzano Mts. 19 Jun (HS), several in *Catron* at Reserve, San Francisco Plaza, Rancho Grande, Alma, and Glenwood 14-16 Jun (JO), and 2 at Sacramento plus 5 near Weed, *Otero* 9 Jun (JO). North was a singing Orchard Oriole at Maxwell 13 Jul (JO). An imm. male **Baltimore Oriole** was singing at R.S. 2 Jun (vt. JO). Several Scott's Orioles were found n. and e. of usual, including 3 at Caja del Rio 28 Jun (JP) and one near Ragland, *Quay* 16 Jun (CR). Cassin's Finches were unusually scarce, with one at Los Alamos 14 Jun (JT), 2 near Angel Fire 30 Jun (CR), and one at a Manzano Mts. feeder in Jun (TH) the only reports. Pine Siskins, typically scarce in submontane areas in summer, arrived there in numbers by mid-Jul. A juv. **Lawrence's Goldfinch** in P.O. Canyon 24 Jul (CL) was remarkably early and represented the first state record since Feb 2000. American Goldfinch is an extremely rare

breeder in New Mexico, so noteworthy were 3 on the Vermejo R. at Dawson 5 Jun (DC) and 8 on Ponil Cr. near Cimarron 13-14 Jun and 3 Jul (DC), with up to 11 singing males there 24 Jul (DC).

Initialed observers: Kathy Brodhead, David Cleary, Kathleen Cotton, Nancy Cox, Alan Craig, Douglas Emkalns, Gordon Ewing, Steven Fettig, Denise Friedrich, William Howe, Tyler Huning, David Krueper, Eugene Lewis, Carroll Littlefield, Brian Long, Larry Malone, Patricia Mehlhop, Ray Meyer, Gale Monson, James Montgomery, Bruce Neville, Jerry Oldenettel, John Parmeter, Nicholas Pederson, Brandon Percival, Eric Rominger, Christopher Rustay, Janet Ruth, Lawry Sager, Hart Schwarz, Marcy Scott, Patricia Snider, Dale Stahlecker, Scott Stoleson, Joyce Takamine, Brad Vaughn, Gordon Warrick, Steve West, William West, Robert Wilcox, S. O. Williams, Hope Woodward, James Zabriskie, Dale & Marian Zimmerman.



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Following a rather uneventful spring passage, summer 2002 unfolded in classic form, with rarities from the peripheries supplemented by new or locally unusual breeding finds from scattered locales. Weather seemed to have a mixed influence on Alaska breeding conditions and success, with noted late breeding and/or failures reported from the Northwest and portions of Southern Coastal areas. As is often the case in this season, unusual sightings and extralimitals came from the Southeast Mainland and the North Slope, wherever and whenever visitors had opportunities to spend time in the field. June and early July highlights continued to include passerine overshoots of breeding populations from adjacent Yukon Territory and northwestern British Columbian habitats, with waifs spread widely from the eastern Interior to the Mainland Southeast (see Juneau and Haines reports especially). The Haines area's 25-Mile Marsh continues to produce remarkable and consistent summer season rarities. This extensive freshwater *Carex/Scirpus* marsh lies isolated and well up the Chilkat R. valley within the northern Coast Range. Most of the Southeast Mainland specialties and vagrants have shown up at this little-vis-

ited site, and anyone visiting northern Southeast must make a stop here.

Abbreviations: A.B.O. (Alaska Bird Observatory); North Gulf (North Gulf of Alaska); SE (Southeast Alaska); U.C.I. (Upper Cook Inlet). References to physical evidence of bird records indicates archived material at the University of Alaska Museum. Italicized place names denote especially unusual locations for the noted species.

SPHENISCIDS THROUGH CRANES

SA One scarcely knows what to make of the documented record of **Humboldt Penguin** (*Spheniscus humboldtii*) caught by fishermen in their nets aboard the vessel *Chirikof* 18 Jul while fishing off Noyes Island, near of Prince of Wales Island (Guy Demmert et al., ph.). The bird, which put up a struggle with crewmembers before calming down enough to be photographed, was released apparently unharmed.

Clear heads offer several comfortable scenarios: an escapee from a collection on North America's West Coast (where almost 100 are known in collections; no escapees known); a refugee from a fishing vessel, itself from South America; or a practical joke. The less comfortable alternative, that the bird was borne northward on currents from the Pacific Coast of South America, would seem laughable, and utterly implausible, were it not for vagrancy records of the closely related Magellanic Penguin (*S. magellanicus*) in excess of 10,000 km from core range—single records from as far as Australia and New Zealand, as well as various subantarctic islands. Humboldt Penguins have strayed as far north as Ecuador on rare occasions, but there are only a few records north of the equator. Naturally, the currents between northwestern South America and southern Alaska do not line up neatly to bring the penguin to this Region unimpeded, though in times of Southern Oscillation, one cannot rule out such transportation. The most plausible, and conservative, position would be that this bird was brought by humans to the northern hemisphere, lost at the coast or at sea, and then recaptured—the ornithological equivalent, nonetheless, of a massive lottery win.

A single Pied-billed Grebe was again located in the productive 25-Mile Marsh near Haines 25 Jul (ADM, PP, PS), possibly a regular summer site for this rare visitor. Late-season birders turned up a Bean Goose at Gambell 27 Jun (RD, SP, GW, JZ), the latest of the Region's few summer reports. Another **Ross's Goose** turned up on the North Slope, where casual in summer, at the periphery of the Howe I. Snow Goose colony near Prudhoe Bay 17 Jun (KB ph., DMT, BG). The season's only notable Trumpeter Swan highlight was a single ad. reported from Ketchikan 28 Jul (SCH, AWP), a first local midsummer record. Following the spring's widespread Blue-winged Teal distribution, noteworthy summer finds included 2 drakes at Kenny L. 11 Jun (GHR, TT) and 3 around Ketchikan, where rare, 7 & 16 Jun (SCH, AWP). Waterfowl highlights were otherwise slim, including a drake Canvasback n. and w. to Kotzebue 25 Jun (LC), a drake Common Pochard well n. and rare for the Mainland at Nome 9 Jun+ (*vide* RAM ph., MM), 2 male Lesser Scaup, irregular on the North Slope, with Greaters at Barter I. 4-5 Jul (DS) and one at Barrow 24-25 Jun (FIELD GUIDES), an accidental-in-summer drake Steller's Eider in Juneau 4 Jul (RJG), 2 imm. male King Eiders off Kodiak 17 Jun (RAM ph.)—summer oddities there—a group of 4 Common Goldeneyes, rare offshore in the Bering Sea at Gambell 26 Jun (RD, SP, GW, JZ), and a female Smew, previously unreported for the

North Slope, at Barter I. 3 Jul (DS). With this season's good coverage came scattered extralimital Common Merganser reports for the North Slope, including at least 10 around Barter I. 2-7 Jul (DS) and 3 near Prudhoe Bay 26 Jun—6 Jul (KB).

Casual on the North Slope, an imm. Bald Eagle, was described from Barter I. 4 Jul (DS). A **Virginia Rail** called from a "loose" territory in the Haines area's 25-Mile Marsh 10-25 Jul (JJ, TM, ADM et al.; no details), only the Region's 3rd location for this accidental visitor from SE. A long-deceased Feb specimen from the outer SE coast and a probable returning bird in a similar Juneau marsh in the late-1990s are the Region's only prior records. The 25-Mile Marsh also harbored 2-5 Soras 17 Jun—12 Jul+ (ADM et al.), the only ones for the season. The season's lone American Coot report was a single displaying bird from the margins of Yarger L. in the e. Interior 11 Jun (GHR, TT), where this rare visitor has bred in the past. Notable Sandhill Cranes away from very local breeding sites in s. SE included singles and a few pairs around Ketchikan's Gravina I. 1-16 Jun (SCH, AWP, CR, BR ph.). Small numbers of Sandhills, from nearby British Columbia populations of either *tabida* or *rowani*, are known to breed in pine bogs mostly on Prince of Wales and Dall Islands in s. SE.

PLOVERS THROUGH ALCIDS

Shorebird migration ceased remarkably quickly and with virtually no late rarities by the end of May, even from n. sites in Nome, Barrow, and Prudhoe Bay. A Terek Sandpiper lingered until 1 Jun at North Beach, St. Paul I., the last of 5 there from 30 May (ST PAUL). Summer highlights were, predictably, mostly southbound individuals and unique SE concentrations (mainly from Juneau), including: an amazing and early peak count of 357 Lesser Yellowlegs 2 Jul in Juneau (PS, GVV) and 42 from Ketchikan 30 Jul + AWP, up to 30+ Hudsonian Godwits also in Juneau 4-6 Jul (SZ, PS, GVV), another odd mid-season Anchorage area Marbled Godwit 16-17 Jun (NS, DFD, GHR), where singles are becoming nearly annual, unprecedented n. SE peak counts of Semipalmated Sandpipers, including 75 near Haines 7 Jul+ (ADM) where rare, and 800+ in Juneau 2 Jul+ (PS, RJG, SZ), a male Ruff in Anchorage 13-27 Jul (DC, DFD, RLS et al.)—quite rare for the Mainland and only the second U.C.I. record—and single male Wilson's Phalaropes in Juneau 1 Jun and 2 Jul (GVV, PS, RJG).

The only account of jaeger nesting success came from Prudhoe Bay sites, where bands of

apparently failed and/or nonbreeding ad. Long-taileds roamed the tundra in Jul, with a good daily peak of 181 from 8 Jul (KB). In contrast to shorebirds, gulls made big moves across the Region, with Palearctic and Nearctic forms being equally significant and widespread. On the heels of spring Franklin's Gull reports were singles in Juneau (an ad. again) 5 Jun (PS) and Anchorage, a second-year bird 8 Jun (DWS, RLS), U.C.I.'s 3rd overall. Visiting birders discovered a **Little Gull** in apparent second prebasic molt 26 Jun on the Anchorage mudflats (†AJ), where it remained with staging Bonaparte's through the 29th (DWS, m. ob.). It is not implausible that this was the same individual seen and documented in earlier molt stages in Juneau from late May. Of the half-dozen Alaska Little Gull reports, only one is well photographed, and this is the first midsummer report.

A Bonaparte's Gull found 6-7 Jun at St. Paul I. was only the 2nd or 3rd for the island (D. Wolf, VENT, m. ob.). Unusual for summer and n. in the Bering Sea was an ad. Kamchatka (Mew) Gull at Nome's Safety Lagoon 12 Jun (RAM ph., MM). Casual in summer, especially n. of SE, and new to Alaska's Beaufort Sea coast, was an ad. Ring-billed Gull at the always exciting *Prudhoe Bay* dump 13-14 Jun (KB ph., DMT, BG).

Post-breeding and, later, juv. California Gulls dispersed into the Region in s. SE on time and in average numbers, with an early peak of 100 in Ketchikan 28 Jul (SCH), while 20 farther n. to Juneau 17 Jul (PS) were a bit more unusual. Noteworthy Slaty-backed Gulls, especially away from the Nome hotbed, were about average and included up to 3 at the Prudhoe area dump 20 Jun—8 Jul (KB et al.), a second-summer bird at St. Paul I. 15 Jun (FIELD GUIDES), another ad. at Kodiak 23 Jun (RAM, MM), and another single in the e. Beaufort Sea at Barter I. 6-8 Jul (DS). Three ad. Sabine's Gulls were a surprise inshore in summer in Thomas Bay n. of Petersburg 6-7 Jul (GVV, PS). Perhaps as a result of breeding problems in the North Gulf, unusual inshore Black-legged Kittiwake occurrences included 13+ in Anchorage 12 Jun (RLS), where casual mainly in Jun, and 400+ at Eagle Beach in Juneau 17 Jul (PS). Confusing reports from Nome apparently documented a near-failure of the Safety area Aleutian Tern colony. However, a follow-up report documented an alternative and previously unreported active colony with 30 pairs out the Council Rd. from the last week of Jun (*fide* PJB).

Van Vleit censused *Brachyramphus* aggregations in Jul and made counts of 1500 in

Thomas Bay 7 Jul, 1000 n. at Eagle Beach near Juneau and 2600 farther n. in Lynn Canal both 15 Jul, and an amazing 4000 in Auke Bay 20 Jul (GVV), some of the Region's most comprehensive single-day summer totals ever. Up to 25 Kittlitz's Murrelets were tallied in Endicott Arm, some 80 km se. of Juneau 11 Jul (GVV), the Region's southernmost probable breeding area. A Rhinoceros Auklet 10 Jun and a bridled-morph Common Murre 17 Jul at St Paul I. were locally rare (ST PAUL).

NIGHTHAWKS THROUGH PIPITS

An unidentified *Cuculus* was seen by experienced ornithologists for U.S.F.W.S. at Southwest Point, St. Paul 2 Jun (Naomi Sugimura et al., *fide* ST PAUL). Common Nighthawks were again documented nesting in revegetating gravel bars in the greater Haines area, where an ad. and 2 nestlings were found along the Klehini R. 10-20 Jul (*fide* ADM). Another 4 ads. were also seen lower down the valley near Haines 25 Jul (ADM, PS, PP); no others were located across the Region. Two Vaux's Swifts were gathering nest material along Revillagigedo I.'s White R. 15 Jun (AWP, SCH), felt to be the best breeding evidence to date for the Ketchikan area. Wandering Kingbirds made a classic mid-season showing in SE, with a single Western and an Eastern at Haines 18 Jun (†ADM) and 4 Jul (KG, AP, ADM), and possibly 2 Easterns near Juneau 14 & 17 Jun (MS, GVV, RJG, DM). At least 2 **Cassin's Vireos** set up brief territories in the Region's now standard site in Juneau's Mendenhall Glacier wooded moraine 22-29 Jun (GVV, PS, SZ).

Two ad. and then a family group of 5 Northwestern Crows spent much of the summer in Turnagain Arm near Girdwood 27 Jun—24 Jul (TT, RLS), indicating probably the Region's northernmost nesting evidence. Although prime Northwestern Crow coastal rainforest breeding habitat extends well n. of the Kenai Pen. into s. Anchorage, the nearest known nesting areas had previously been described from Whittier just across the mts. in extreme nw. Prince William Sound. A Skylark at Southwest Pt., St. Paul I. 2 Jun was noteworthy there (ST PAUL, ph. GLA, ph. Susan Hengeveld).

As is typical, extralimital swallow reports spanned the Region. Highlights included a Tree Swallow at Barrow, where casual, 25 Jun (FIELD GUIDES), a single Northern Rough-winged Swallow farther n. than the norm to Juneau 5 Jul (GVV), and Barn Swallows to the Region's periphery, where always casual, with many sightings of singles at St. Paul I. 10-21 Jun (ST PAUL, FIELD GUIDES), at least one of

which was of the less-common North American race *erythrogaster*, and Gambell 25 Jun (JZ), and 2+ n. to Prudhoe Bay 22 Jun—11 Jul (BG, DMT).

A **Gray-spotted Flycatcher** (*Muscicapa gri-seisticta*) found by Armistead 11 Jun (ph. GLA, ST PAUL) remained through the next day to be seen by many (JLD, WINGS, m. ob.). This constitutes the first record of the species away from the w. Aleutians and was a first for the Pribilofs; the easternmost previous record was from Amchitka I. A Siberian Rubythroat at St. Paul 12 Jun (Max Berlijn, ST PAUL) was the only one reported. Nome area birders were again disappointed with few and fleeting White Wagtail observations all season. The only extralimital was one n. to Barrow 25+ Jun (FIELD GUIDES). A late Red-throated Pipit was at St. Paul I. 12 Jun (FIELD GUIDES).

WARBLERS THROUGH FRINGILLIDS

Warblers were unusually quiet this season, save for the American Redstart in Anchorage 23 Jun (TT, NS, GJT), U.C.I.'s first and one of few away from the SE Mainland breeding populations. Extralimital Common Yellowthroats

were in the e. Interior at Scotty Cr. 11 Jun (TT, GHR) and in Anchorage 12 Jul (DWS et al.). The Interior yellowthroat closely matched the n. and Interior nesting *campicola/yukonicola*. Still casual in summer and typically in SE was a singing **Black-headed Grosbeak** in Juneau 11 Jun (GVV). A male **House Finch** appeared briefly at a Ketchikan feeder 2 Jul (PH ph.), the Region's first midsummer report and approximately the 5th overall. The female McKay's Bunting on St. Paul, first discovered 23 May, was photographed 12 Jun feeding 3 fledgling young produced with a male Snow Bunting (ST PAUL, FIELD GUIDES).

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It is often difficult enough to distinguish southbound from northbound birds during the summer, and the late spring caused even more confusing overlap this year than normal. We might also blame the cool weather for the reduced numbers of passerines encountered on many Breeding Bird Surveys. The Region's first nesting of Black-necked Stilt was successful, and the Northwest Territories recorded their first Black-tailed Gull. The avian event of the season, however, was the discovery of a Siberian Blue Robin in Dawson, Yukon—a first record for mainland North America.

Abbreviations: Chichester (Chichester Bird Sanctuary, Kelowna), C.I.P. (Cottonwood Island Park, Prince George), F.F.T.W. (Forests for the World, Prince George), Whse. (Whitehorse, Yukon).

LOONS THROUGH RAILS

An out-of-season Horned Grebe in alternate plumage was at Victoria 9 Jul (PL et. al.). An Eared Grebe colony that is not often successful held 101 nests at Rawlings L. 8 Jul (GSD). Another colony on Rock L., Becher Prairie, contained 549 nests (RWC, LVD). American White Pelicans were reported on several occasions at Swan L. in the Peace lowlands: 6 were present 4 Jun, 30 on 15 Jun, and 4 on 12 Jul (*vide* MC). These birds are likely wanderers from prairie breeding colonies where drought conditions persisted.

Double-crested Cormorants, away from the coast, included an imm at Waneta Dam in the West Kootenays 25 Jul (GN). William's L. was host to a Great Egret 1-5 Jun (PR), the only report received this season. A Snowy Egret was in Saanich 3-9 Jun (EP, m. ob.) for one of only a handful of Vancouver I. records. A very late Greater White-fronted Goose was near Tofino 28 Jun and 2 & 4 Jul (AD). A Wood Duck was well out of place at Lightning L., Manning P.P. 6 Jul (PL et al.). Rare in the s. interior, a

Harlequin Duck was at Okanagan Falls 4 Jul (CC, m. ob.). A Long-tailed Duck was very late at T'Kumlups Marsh, Kamloops 11 Jun (WW).

A Sharp-tailed Grouse family was near its n. breeding limit on the Dempster Hwy near Campbell L., NWT 20 Jul (BM, RH, MFa). There were a few late Rough-legged Hawks in the s. this spring, by far the latest a weak individual that died 12 Jul at Little Fort (*vide* RH). A Northern Goshawk survey on Vancouver I. discovered eight active nests in the Nimpkish drainage (*vide* MGS). A new Yellow Rail location was discovered when 3 were heard ne. of Chetwynd 10 & 23 Jun (LL, SK); there are only three known locations in the province. The w. coast of Vancouver I. had its 2nd breeding record of Sora, from the same location as the first, along the lower Kennedy R. 28 Jul (MB, DB).

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH GULLS

The Province's first nesting of Black-necked Stilts proved to be a success 21 Jul (DW) when a fledgling was observed; on 22 Jul, 4 fledglings were seen (WW). A pair of American Avocets that was first reported in May near Dawson Cr. was seen again 14 Jun (LL, SK), with one bird there sitting on a nest. Unfortunately, the nest was subsequently ploughed under, as the farmer was unaware of it. Other avocets at the Fort St. John lagoons may have been more successful; an observer here was dive-bombed and scolded by a pair 9 Jul (DW); if confirmed, this would represent the first nesting for the Peace R. area.

Whimbrels are very rare in the interior, and the ad. found in Vernon furnished the 4th record for the Okanagan 31 Jul (CS, CM). Very rare along the s. coast, a **Bar-tailed Godwit** was in Tsawwassen 12 Jun (RS). Marbled Godwits were either very late or very early at Long Beach near Tofino 27 Jun and 22-23 Jul (AD). Wilson's Phalaropes are rarely encountered on the w. coast, so 2 at Tofino 9 Jun were noteworthy (AD). Breeding was discovered at Alex L. in the Chilcotin 4 Jul (GSD, CS) where there are few breeding records.

Pelagic trips out of Tofino produced South Polar Skuas on two occasions: 2 on 21 Jun and a single 16 Jul (AD). Mew Gulls are rare in the interior but particularly so during the summer months; one found at Robert L., Kelowna 22 Jul was a rarity there (CC). The Inuvik dump, NWT produced an astounding

array of gulls, including an ad. California Gull present 1–17 Jun (BM, RHa), joined by another ad. 3 Jun (BM, RHa), well n. of breeding range. The first bird was marked with blue paint and had been seen 72 hours earlier at Norman Wells, NWT, a distance of 450 km, or at least 600 km if the bird followed the Mackenzie R. A third-summer **Black-tailed Gull** was carefully observed 4 Jun (BM, ph. JBa) outside the Inuvik dump but was spooked by a raven during its visit and never seen again despite intensive searching. Also at this dump were an ad. Glaucous-winged Gull 21 Jun (BM ph. et al.) and an ad. Sabine's Gull 18 Jun (BM et al.).

OWLS THROUGH FINCHES

Observations suggesting that mouse and vole populations were high came from many sources, among them a trip along the Dempster Hwy between Arctic R. and Inuvik that produced 17 Short-eared Owls and a family group of 6 young Northern Hawk Owls 21 Jul (BM, RHa, MFa). Eight Boreal Owls, often calling during the day, were reported from the Yukon: 2 in sw. Yukon 7–8 Jun (*fide* HG); 3 near Teslin 10–26 Jun (MG et al.); and 3 at Mt. McIntyre 8, 12 & 14 Jun (HG et al.) This summer's Spotted Owl survey tallied only 19 individuals (*fide* DTy), cause for concern for this rare owl.

Rarely encountered s. of the cen. interior, single Alder Flycatchers were noted at Pitt Meadows 29 May–15 Jun (TP et al.), near Merritt 2 Jul (WW), and near Edgewood 16 Jun (GSD), where 2 singing males were seen. A Willow Flycatcher was upstream from Tahsish Inlet along the Artlish R., extending its known Vancouver I. range 21 Jul (MGS). Least Flycatchers have become scarce but regular visitors to the s. interior in recent years. Breeding was confirmed in the Okanagan when a nest was discovered along Mission Cr., Kelowna 21 Jun (CC). A singing Least was well n. at the Inuvik sewage lagoon 8 Jul (BM). Say's Phoebes are occasionally encountered in the Northwest Territories. Singles were at Inuvik 6 Jul and the Inuvik airport 8 Jul (BM). A few Western Kingbirds ventured well w. of their range, with one in Ft. St. James 17 Jun (RR) for the first time in 10 years, and another was near Tofino 1 Jun–30 Jul (AC, CC) for a first summer record.

Loggerhead Shrikes are very rare on the coast. An ad. was discovered at Iona I. 4 Jun (RTo, MM) and furnished the first local summer record and first Vancouver record since 1989. As a result of the cold, late spring, many passerine numbers were down on

Breeding Bird Surveys. One observer in cen. British Columbia found a sharp reduction in Swainson's Thrush and American Robin numbers, with 22% and 35% fewer this summer, respectively—much higher than the usual interannual variation (*fide* JB). A well-documented male **Siberian Blue Robin** was closely observed as it foraged in a garden in Dawson, Yukon 9 Jun (NC, †AS). Northern Mockingbirds are very rare in the s. interior; one was reported from Keremeos 7 Jun (ED), and another was at Kaslo 19 Jun (DR). Sage Thrashers are very rare away from the s. Okanagan; one was seen briefly at Leach L., Creston 30 Jul (MAB). A Cedar Waxwing, a rare Yukon breeder, was seen at Upper Liard 18 Jul (HG).

Rarely encountered w. of the Rockies, a **Chestnut-sided Warbler** was in Fort St. James 5 Jun (RR). A few Magnolia Warblers establish territories in the Kootenays but have yet to provide convincing evidence of breeding. Three singing males were at Summit L., Nakusp 26 Jun (GSD) and another singing male near Hills 8 Jul (GSD). A pair of Cape May Warblers at Upper Liard 7 Jul (HG, TMK) provided the Yukon's westernmost record. A **Black-throated Blue Warbler** was discovered near downtown Victoria and furnished the 2nd local record and the 8th record for the province 28 Jun (DA). A male Black-throated Gray Warbler was upstream from Tahsish Inlet along the Artlish R. 21 Jul (MGS), extending its known Vancouver I. range. A Black-and-white Warbler was a rare find at William's L. 5 Jun (AR). Connecticut Warblers are localized breeders in the Peace R. area, but confirmed nests are quite rare; a nest found sw. of Dawson Cr. 14 Jun contained five eggs 19 Jun, and by 9 Jul, 5 young had fledged (MP). Yellow-breasted Chats are very rare on the s. coast, where there is one breeding record. Thus it was with some excitement when 2 birds were discovered at Pitt Meadows 4 Jun—2 Jul (MW et al.).

Single Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, very rare summer visitors to the s. interior, were at a feeder near Rossland 26 Jul (JBe) and at William's L. 3 Jun (SH). A male Black-headed Grosbeak was upstream from Tahsish Inlet along the Artlish R., where this species is not known to occur (MGS). Lazuli Buntings continued their northward and westward expansion with at least 4 discovered on Vancouver I. The first male arrived 1 Jul (m. ob.) and was joined by a female 2 Jul on Mt. Tolmie, Victoria (m. ob.); by 18 Jul, 2 males, a female, and 3 juvs. were present (RS) and furnished the first breeding record for Vancouver I. Farther n. on the island, a male

was in Nanaimo in early Jul (m. ob.). Very rare in the province, a male Indigo Bunting was at Gang Ranch near 100 Mile House 8 Jun (TG, PR). The Province's 6th **Green-tailed Towhee** was found in Lillooet 7 Jul (HD). Lark Sparrows, rare in the Kootenays and in the North Okanagan, were at Skookumchuk 25 Jun (one; GR, RG) and near Winfield 7 Jul (2; TF). A Lark Sparrow that was discovered at Churn Cr. 8 Jun (TG) was later found with another ad. and a recent fledgling 5–7 Jul (GSD, CS) this would constitute the most northerly and westerly breeding. The Province's 7th **Chestnut-collared Longspur** was seen near Clearwater 1 Jul (CR, m. ob.); unfortunately, it was not relocated despite many attempts on subsequent days. Kelowna's **Great-tailed Grackle** was seen sporadically this summer season (m. ob.). Rare away from the Peace R. area, a Common Grackle was at Invermere 4 Jun (LC, RaH).

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Oregon–Washington



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The summer was a magnificent one for birding. The weather was warm and sunny. Vagrants were everywhere. The Region had 22 boldfaced species, as many as in a decent fall season. There were eight species of “eastern” vagrant warblers, tying the summer record. Washington had two to three first state records, with a very well-studied Alder Flycatcher and a Bay-breasted Warbler, plus a Yellow-billed Magpie of unknown origin. Oregon chimed in with a first North American record – a Juan Fernández Petrel. There were several firsts of other sorts as well, including the Region’s first summer Common Redpolls and first breeding Common Grackles. Other trends included ever-increasing numbers of Least Flycatchers, more signs of Bewick’s Wren and Black Phoebe range expansion, and a continued surge in Rose-breasted Grosbeak records.

June was a bit dry throughout the Region, excepting se. Washington and immediately adjacent Oregon. July, however, saw precipitation totals that were below 50% normal virtually throughout the Region. June tempera-

tures were modestly warm at 1-3° F above average, but July was quite warm, with much of the Region experiencing temperatures 3-9° above average.

Abbreviations: F.R.R. (Fern Ridge Reservoir, Lane); K.I.R. (Kalispell Indian Reservation, Pend Oreille), Malheur (Malheur N.W.R., Harney); N.S.C.B. (N. Spit Coos Bay, Coos); O.S. (Ocean Shores, Grays Harbor); Ridgefield (Ridgefield N.W.R., Clark); W.W.R.D. (Walla Walla R. delta, Walla Walla). “Eastside” and “westside” denote locations east and west of the Cascade crest, respectively.

LOONS THROUGH CRANES

A tally of 300 Pacific Loons at Boiler Bay, Lincoln 2 Jun was most unusual for such a late date (PP), while singles at Wanapum Dam, Kittitas 11 Jun (WC) and Orondo, Okanogan 11 Jul (TA) provided e. Washington’s 2nd and 3rd summer records. Eared Grebes, very rare on the westside during summer, were at Fernhill Wetlands 5 Jun (M. Screen), Baskett Slough, Polk 11 Jun (WT), and Stanwood, Snohomish 22 Jun (SM). A pair of Clark’s Grebes summered at their one westside nesting location, F.R.R. (T. Mickel).

Six Black-footed Albatrosses, very rare from shore, were off Boiler Bay 29 Jun (PP). The Laysan Albatross off the Olympic Peninsula on 18 Jun was considered rare (SMi); they are found in about a third of recent summers. A Juan Fernández Petrel about 80 km off Brookings, Curry 7 Jun was

well described by experienced seabirders and scientists (†D. Ainley, †T. Ryan); this should provide the first accepted record from North American waters, though a bird very likely of this species was seen 56 km w. of Grays Harbor on 14 Sep 1990. Pink-footed Shearwater numbers off Westport were very high for summer, averaging 300/trip (BT). Three Flesh-footed Shearwaters off the Olympic Peninsula 12-18 Jun (SMi) were unusual at that season. Sooty Shearwaters were again seen from shore in excellent numbers, with maxima of 50,000 southbound past Long Beach, Pacific 5 Aug (SM), 30,000 southbound at O.S. 29 Jun (SM, DD), and 20,000 at Lincoln City 11 Jul (PP). At-sea counts of 60,000+ off the Olympic Peninsula on 18 Jun (SMi) and pelagic trip averages of 2200 per trip off Westport (BT) were also indicative of stronger numbers than last decade. Manx Shearwaters included one at Boiler Bay 2 Jun (PP), one ca. 80 km off Brookings, Curry 7 Jun (†T. Ryan, D. Ainley), and 2 off the Olympic Peninsula 12 Jun (†SMi)—an average summer total compared with the last 4-5.

Westside American White Pelican numbers were above average, though not up to last summer’s invasion: a total of 17 was reported from two Washington sites, while 30 were scattered between five Oregon sites. A roost of 1300+ Brown Pelicans at Sand I., Clatsop 7 Jul provided a notable high count (BT). A Snowy Egret was at near Wallula, Walla Walla 2-27 Jul (NL, C. Simonen); one to 2 per summer is now normal for Washington. Snowy Egrets were also at Baskett Slough, Polk 14 Jun (WT) and Alsea Bay, Lincoln 28 Jul (R. Lowe); though increasingly reported, they are still not annual in nw. Oregon during summer. An ad. Little Blue Heron at Ellensburg, Kittitas 8-9 Jun was Washington’s 3rd, the Region’s 6th, and the first since 1990 (J. Meyer, ph. S. Ray, vt. SM); previous records were fairly evenly split between those that were first found in May/June and Oct through Jan. Five Cattle Egrets were at Goose L., Lake 16 Jun (D. Tracy); they are rare late spring/summer visitors to se. Oregon. White-faced Ibis, rare in e. Washington, included 2 at Othello, Adams 11-12 Jun (BF, RH), one there 21-26 Jul (BF), and one at Iowa Beef 2 Jul (BL, NL, MD, MLD).

“Stumpy”, the one-footed Emperor Goose, survived its 3rd summer at Port Angeles,



Until recently considered quite rare, summer Bar-tailed Godwits again put in their now-expected appearances: at least two adult females were at Damon Point, Ocean Shores, Washington from mid- to late July (here 23 July) 2002. Photograph by Ruth Sullivan.

Clallam (PL). A Ross's Goose, extremely rare during summer, was at Cape Blanco, *Curry* 29 Jul (TJW). Black Brant are rare summer residents in the Region, but the newly recognized Gray-bellied form (not yet formally designated by trinomials) has not yet been reported during summer. This summer, 5 Gray-bellieds were at Padilla Bay, *Skagit*, one of their main wintering locations, on 22 Jun (SM, DD, TP); additionally, 40 Black Brant at Cape Flattery, *Clallam* 8 Jul provided an exceptionally high summer count for that taxon (M. Andrews). An injured Trumpeter Swan survived the summer at Ridgefield, where they are uncommon at any time (WC). A Blue-winged x Cinnamon Teal was at Everett 20 Jun (SM); this hybrid is barely annual in the Region. A brood of Green-winged Teal, rare breeders on the westside, was at Stanwood, *Snohomish* in Jul (SM, CB). Rare for w. Oregon was a brood of Northern Shoveler at Finley N.W.R. (HN). Redheads are not annual during summer on the westside, except perhaps during the first few days of Jun. This summer, 41 were in w. Oregon, including a maximum of 16 at F.R.R. 29 Jun (K. Larson). Other midsummer sightings included 7 at Force L., *Multnomah* throughout the summer (HN, D. Bailey) and 2 at Smith L., *Multnomah* 2 Jul (HN). Extremely rare breeders on the outer coast, Ring-necked Ducks once again bred at N.S.C.B. (TR). Greater Scaup are very rare during summer

on the eastside, so singles at Vantage, *Kittitas* 5 Jun (TA) and Baker L., *Okanogan* 3 Jul (PL) were noteworthy. Three broods of Lesser Scaup were at Stanwood, *Snohomish* 31 Jul (TA), one brood was at Deer Lagoon, *Island* (SM, RTS), and another brood was at Vancouver, *Clark* 27 Jul (SM); they are rare breeders on the westside, and the latter record was the southernmost ever there. A Harlequin Duck on the Columbia R. near Ackerman I., *Skamania* 26 Jun was well out of place (WC). A Surf Scoter at Duley L., *Okanogan* 14 Jun provided e. Washington's first summer record (PtS, RS), while 2180 at Padilla Bay 13 Jul was more than quadruple the usual summer maximum and was probably the highest tally ever for that season (SM). A Long-tailed Duck, rare during summer, was at Boiler Bay 14 Jun (PP). Rare breeders, Common Goldeneye broods were at Beth L., *Okanogan* (TA) and near River Bend, *Pend Oreille* (MM).

A Northern Goshawk near Brookings, *Curry* 3 Jul (TR) and another at Wilson Wildlife Area 29 Jul (JG) were at exceptionally low elevations for summer. Red-shouldered Hawks are very rare in nw. Oregon during summer, so singles at Sauvie I. 21 Jul (IT) and Finley N.W.R. 24 Jul (HH, R. Hoyer) were noteworthy. Black Merlins (race *suckleyi*), rare breeders in Washington, nested at Bellingham, *Whatcom* (D. Drumond). A Sandhill Crane, extremely rare during summer

in w. Washington, was near Stanwood, *Snohomish* 23 Jun (G. Gerdtts).

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

The summer was above average for golden-plovers, with an American at Clatsop Spit 26 Jul (TT) and single Pacifics at Tenmile Estuary, *Coos* 11 Jun (DL, KC), O.S. 7 Jul (ph. RS), O.S. 27 Jul (RTS), and Leadbetter Pt., *Pacific* 27 Jul (N. Ball). Notably, Jun records are exceptionally scarce, and the 7 Jul bird was about three weeks early. An unidentified golden-plover was at N.S.C.B. 24 Jul (DL, KC). Black-necked Stilts continue to spread. After nesting for the first time on the westside last summer, stilts bred again there this year, with nests at F.R.R. and Baskett Slough, *Polk* (DDW, RG). In e. Washington, the breeding range was extended n. to Cameron L. Rd., *Okanogan* (PtS, RS) and K.I.R., where 6 pairs were located (MM). The American Avocet nest at Crockett L., *Island* failed in early Jun, and the ads. quickly departed (B. Merrick); an avocet at N.S.C.B. 28 Jun was a very rare summer wanderer to the westside (TR). Thirteen Solitary Sandpipers, from 13 Jul on, was more than twice the usual total. An Upland Sandpiper near Spokane 6-22 Jul was Washington's first during summer since 1993 and was near this species's former breeding area (WH, †JA, †DB). In Oregon, a few pairs returned to Bear Valley, *Grant*, continuing this species's tenuous foothold in the Region



This Curlew Sandpiper (center), the state's eighth, was found at Crockett Lake, Washington 19 July 2002. Photograph by Kevin Aanerud.

(TR). Long-billed Curlews are very rare on the westside during summer away from the outer coast, so singles at Baskett Slough 14 Jun (WT), Edmonds, *Snohomish* 21 Jul (DD), and F.R.R. 30 Jul (DDW) were noteworthy. A Hudsonian Godwit at Baskett Slough 5-9 Jun added to the 2 this May found in Washington (RG); prior to this year, there were only seven Regional records of northbound Hudsonian Godwits, all 26 Apr—8 Jun. Bar-tailed Godwits, formerly a mega-rarity during summer, have been annual of late; this summer, single ad. females were at O.S. 14-16 Jul (+PtS, ph. RS) and 21-23 Jul (ph. RS). Two Marbled Godwits were noted near Cusick, *Pend Oreille* 27 Jun in e. Washington, where very rare, particularly during mid-summer (MM).

A Ruddy Turnstone at Migraine L., *Grant* 24-27 Jul was the first-ever eastside record of a southbound ad. (RH, BF). A Sanderling, very rare on the eastside during summer, was at Prineville, *Crook* 31 Jul (ph. C. Gates). A seasonal total of 96 Semipalmated Sandpipers was more than twice normal. The first was early at Yaquina Bay, *Lincoln* 22 Jun (D. Pettey), and the maximum was a Regional record 33 at Crockett L., *Island* 26 Jul (KA). Oregon's 4th **Little Stint**, and first ad., was at N.S.C.B. 13 Jul (vt. DL, KC); previous records were 10 Aug—12 Sep. Ten Baird's Sandpipers from 11 Jul on was well above recent totals, while 6 Pectoral Sandpipers from 4 Jul on was about normal. Why an occasional Dunlin flings itself southward months ahead of its compatriots is unknown, but such individuals are virtually annual; this year, singles were at Crockett L. 11 Jul (SM) and O.S. 21 Jul (BL, NL). Much more unusual was an inland Dunlin at Baskett Slough 7-14 Jun (J. Sullivan, RG); another at Sequim Bay,

Clallam 9 Jun was also noteworthy (BN, J. Norton). Washington's 8th **Curlew Sandpiper** was at Crockett L. 19 Jul (ph. KA); the five previous fall records were fairly evenly scattered between 29 Jul and 5 Oct. Single Short-billed Dowitchers, very rare during summer on the eastside, were at Othello, *Adams* 5 Jul (BF) and Walla Walla 27 Jul (MD, MLD, BL, NL). Wilson's Phalaropes again bred at Baskett Slough and F.R.R. (*vide* HN); this species is a rare and local breeder on the westside.

A total of 10 South Polar Skuas, 5 off the Olympic Peninsula 12-18 Jun (SMi) and 5 in three pelagic trips off Westport (BT), is apparently a record-high summer total. Once again, Franklin's Gulls wandered the Oregon coast this summer, with singles at Clatsop Spit 2 Jun (MP), Boiler Bay, *Lincoln* 2 & 7 Jun (PP), and 2 at Yaquina Bay, *Lincoln* 9 Jun (J. Simmons). In e. Washington, where increasing, 2 were on Detour Rd., Walla Walla 1 Jun (MD, MLD), 5 were at Sprague L. 5 Jun (TA) and one was at Duley L., *Okanogan* 14 Jul (PtS, RS). A **Thayer's Gull** at Lincoln City 2 Jun was only the Region's 3rd for summer (ph. PP). A Sabine's Gull at Wenatchee, *Chelan* 4 Jun provided the eastside with about its 4th record of a northbound bird (C. Thompson, P. Fiedler).

Puget Sound Caspian Terns have been vagabonds, with sporadic nesting here and there since being evicted from their Everett breeding colony (numbering 2500+ pairs) so that a softball field could be built; this summer 300 ads. frequented rooftops in Bellingham, *Whatcom* and appeared to fledge several young (TRW). On 24 May, a Common Tern was at Wilson Creek, *Grant*, and 14 were at L. Lenore, *Grant* (SM); northbound Common Terns are very rare on the

eastside, and the latter record likely represented a record spring/summer maximum for the eastside. A northbound Arctic Tern at Othello, *Adams* 1 Jun was only the 3rd such record for e. Washington (vt. SM). On the westside, two pairs were at the tiny but persistent Everett colony 4-29 Jun (GT, G. Gerdts), while 2 Arctics at Useless Bay, *Island* 30 Jun (SM) were either from the Everett colony or early migrants; in either case, records in the Puget Sound area away from Everett are extremely rare. Formerly quite rare, Forster's Terns seem to be increasing during summer on the westside, particularly in Oregon. This summer, 2 were at Fernhill Wetlands, *Washington* 16 Jun (D. Manzer), 3 were at Baskett Slough 13 Jun (K. Bettinger), and 9 were at Jackson Bottom, *Washington* 14 Jun (S. Pinnock). Oregon's 8th **Least Tern** was at Mann L., *Harney* 6 Jun (L. Messick, D. Evered); all previous records were from the westside, and most were late May—mid-Aug. Black Terns continued to favor their two established w. Oregon breeding locations, with young raised at both Baskett Slough (RG) and F.R.R. (AC), with 50+ birds at the latter location late in the season. In Washington, a pair of Black Terns at Ridgefield appeared to be feeding young 27 Jul (JE, SM); this location provided w. Washington's first breeding record last summer. Elsewhere in Washington, 6 at Silver L., *Cowlitz* 12 Jun were likely late spring migrants (J. Skirletz), and a Black Tern 24 km off the Olympic Peninsula on 15 Jun (SMi) represented Washington's first summer offshore record.

Always notable during summer, an Ancient Murrelet was at Boiler Bay, *Lincoln* 8 Jul (PP). Additionally, 10+ Ancients off the Olympic Peninsula 12-18 Jun (SMi) probably

indicate continuing presence as a rare breeder in this area. Very rare e. of Cape Flattery, a Cassin's Auklet was at Ediz Hook, *Clallam* 7 Jul (R. Rogers). For the 5th summer of the past six, a Horned Puffin—perhaps the same Horned Puffin—was found along the Oregon coast: Boiler Bay 21 & 29 Jun (PP).

Washington's 2nd well-documented **Eurasian Collared-Dove** was at Wenatchee, *Chelan* 9 Jul—17 Jul, where it paired with a male Ringed Turtle-Dove (†DB, †P. Mattocks); the turtle-dove had been present for more than a year. Washington's 6th **White-winged Dove** was near Ellensburg, *Kittitas* 8-10 Jun (D. Essman, vt. SM, †DB); all records have been May—Nov. A Yellow-billed Cuckoo at Enterprise, *Wallowa* 23 Jun supplied a very rare record for ne. Oregon (G. Underhill). Two pairs of Great Gray Owls with 2 young each were at Biscuit Ridge, *Walla Walla* 23-29 Jun (vt. CW, ph. RTS, R. & G. Shoemaker, J. & S. Rogers, MD, MLD), and another pair with 2 young were nearby at Jasper Mt., *Columbia/Walla Walla* 29 Jun (MD, MLD); there were no previous breeding records from Washington's Blue Mts., though Great Grays nest in nearby Oregon. A male **Broad-tailed Hummingbird** at upper Dry Creek Cr., *Walla Walla* 7 Jun (MD, MLD) was only Washington's 2nd, the first coming from *Asotin* in Aug 2000. In Oregon, out-of-place Broad-taileds were near Sisters, *Deschutes* 13 Jun (HN) and Bend, *Deschutes* 21 Jul (ph. D. Tracy); this species seems to be regular only in far e. Oregon. An integrate female Red-shafted x Yellow-shafted Flicker mated with a phenotypically pure Red-shafted in Seattle, producing 2 young (†L. Darnell); curiously, one of the young sported a red nape crescent, absent on either parent. Though fairly common during much of the year, integrate flickers are extremely rare during summer.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH MOCKINGBIRD

Washington's first **Alder Flycatcher** was near Muskrat L., *Okanogan* 14-22 Jun (ph. PtS, audiotape PtS, †DB); this bird sang, called, and looked like a typical Alder and sonographic analysis helped confirm its identification (D. Paulson). Curiously, in early Jul, up to 2 additional individuals in the vicinity were giving both Alder- and Willow-type calls (PL). More problematically, a "Trail's" Flycatcher near Ritzville, *Lincoln* 8 Jun—6 Jul gave a bewildering variety of calls and songs and visually fit either Alder or Willow (BF); well documented by audiotape and photos, outside input will be sought. Least Flycatchers were found in large numbers, with singing males at traditional sites in

Hardy Canyon, *Yakima* 18 Jun (AS) and Holliday S.P., *Grant* 14 Jun—Jul (TR). Additionally, singing birds were near River Bend, *Pend Oreille* 3 Jun (MM), Central Ferry Canyon, *Douglas* 11-13 Jun (KK, DB), Ephrata, *Grant* 13 Jun (DB), and Cassimer Bar, *Okanogan* 15 Jun (KK); furthermore, 2 were near Twisp, *Okanogan* 5 Jul (MD, MLD), and 3-4 pairs were at K.I.R. 4 Jun—1 Jul (MM); the Region has averaged about 9 Least per summer during recent years. A Black Phoebe at Bend 16 Jun was extremely rare for e. Oregon during summer (D. Fainberg), while a breeding pair near Dayton, *Yamhill* was well n. of this species's breeding range in w. Oregon (F. Schrock). An Ash-throated Flycatcher at Clackamas 25 Jun was well n. of known range in w. Oregon, while one near Omak L., *Okanogan* 16 Jun was similarly n. of typical range in e. Washington (E. Hunn). A pair of Western Kingbirds at Monroe provided *Snohomish's* first breeding record (B. Boyes); this species is a very local nester in w. Washington. Eastern Kingbirds are very rare on the outer coast, so singles at Tatoosh I., *Clallam* 11 Jun (TW, RP) and near Brookings, *Curry* 14 Jun (DM) were noteworthy.

A Plumbeous Vireo at Fields, *Harney* 11 Jun provided another record of this barely annual late spring/early summer visitor to se. Oregon (TR). Washington's 2nd **Philadelphia Vireo** was in *Lincoln* near Ritzville 7 Jun (†D. Barton). Washington's previous record was from Sep 1991, while Oregon's sole record was from Jun 1991. A Western Scrub-Jay was at Lummi I., 25-27 Jun (C. Blake); this was probably a *Whatcom* first and one of fewer than 10 n. of *King*. A **Yellow-billed Magpie** with Black-billed near Pasco, *Franklin* 15-16 Jun (†J. Mundall, E. Mundall) provided Washington's first record, albeit laden with the question of origin; interestingly, there were several out-of-place Yellow-billed Magpies in the San Francisco Bay area this spring (*N. A. B.* 56: 354). A Purple Martin was at Prineville, *Crook* 15 Jul (C. Gates); they are very rare on the east-side, especially during summer. New Bank Swallow colonies continue to be found in w. Washington: 10+ pairs nested near Sultan, *Snohomish* (B. Boyes) and 20+ pairs near Woodland, *Cowlitz* 25 May (BT). A Boreal Chickadee at Colonial Cr. Campground, *Whatcom* 30 Jun provided a very rare record for w. Washington and was somewhat farther w. than most previous such records (J. O'Connell). A Bushtit at the n. end of Potholes Res., *Grant* 3 Jun (†BT, R. Friesz) was about 100 km from the nearest known population—a veritable continent for that species.

Rare in w. Oregon, single Rock Wrens were

SA The **Common Grackle** invasion continued this summer. Prior to this year, there were about seven Washington and 25 Oregon records. This spring, one was found in Washington and 5 were in Oregon, with the Washington bird remaining at Yakima until at least 8 Jun (BL, NL). Then this summer, on 3 Jun, a pair was found at Ephrata, *Grant* (†BT, R. Friesz), and food was being brought to the nest on 21 Jun (BL, NL), providing *Washington's first breeding record!* Additionally, a Common Grackle was at Tatoosh I., *Clallam* 13 Jun (†TW) followed by a 2nd bird there 24-27 Jun (TW, RP); only two of Washington's previous records were from the westside, one of which was from Tatoosh I. in Jun. Another Common Grackle at Othello, *Adams* 3 Jul completed Washington's bonanza (†RH). In Oregon this summer, a Common Grackle was at Jordan Valley, *Malheur* 7 Jun—Jul (L. Michaels), and one was at Fields, *Harney* 12 Jun (†TR).

at Larch Mtn., *Multnomah* 14 Jun (IT, J. Fitch) and near Sublimity, *Linn* 14 Jun (J. Harding, B. Thackaberry). Eight singing Bewick's Wrens at n. end of Potholes Res., *Grant* 3 Jun (BT, R. Friesz) supplied continuing evidence of range expansion. Lowland Ruby-crowned Kinglets at Kala Point, *Jefferson* 24 Jun (R. Wagner) and Odessa, *Lincoln* 15 Jun (RH) were distant from normal breeding areas. The **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** at Hardy Canyon, *Yakima* continued to try to lure a mate to his fine nest, without success, until at least 30 Jun (F. Drobny). Two singing Veeries were at their only known westside breeding location, near Newhalem, *Whatcom* 22 Jun (K. & K. Kemper, SM, DD, TP); another singing Veery was in w. Oregon, where casual, at New R., *Coos* 7 Jun (TR). Two midsummer Hermit Thrushes at sea level, well away from breeding locations, were quite surprising: Ocean City, *Grays Harbor* 1 Jul (BW) and Seattle 7 Jul (TA). A Gray Catbird, extremely rare in w. Washington, was near Sequim, *Clallam* 22 Jun (A. Accurso). Six Northern Mockingbirds this summer was a bit above average: Whiskey Dick W.M.A., *Kittitas* 1 Jun (S. Downes), Floras L., *Curry* 3 Jun (DL, KC), Richland, *Benton* 6 Jun (BL, NL), Fields, *Harney* 12 Jun (TR), O.S. 12 Jul (BT, PL, B. Labar, KA), and Yaquina Bay, *Lincoln* 18 Jul (D. Pitkin).

Washington's 6th **Brown Thrasher** was at Sequim 2 Jul (†C. Tidyman).

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

A Northern Parula was near Florence, *Lane* 23 Jun (D. Pettey, K. Hollinga); parulas are annual in Oregon during May/June, though most are found in se. Oregon. A **Chestnut-sided Warbler** at Graysmarsh, *Clallam* 22-23 Jun (†S. Atkinson, B. Boekelheide) was the 15th for Washington, and the 5th for w. Washington; almost all have been 11 Jun—18 Jul. A Magnolia Warbler at Malheur 1 Jun added to about 35 previous Oregon records (M. Nebeker). A **Myrtle Warbler** near Vantage, *Kittitas* 11 Jun provided Washington's 3rd summer record (WC). Hermit Warbler genes are very rare e. of the Cascades, so a Hermit x Townsend's Warbler at Windust Park, *Franklin* 1 Jun (BF, SM, MD) and a phenotypically pure Hermit at Malheur 5 Jun (Trent Bray) were noteworthy. Oregon's 4th **Yellow-throated Warbler** was at Malheur 8-10 Jun (J. Harding, B. Thackaberry); the three previous records spanned 24 Apr—11 Jun, and two were from *Harney*.

Washington's first **Bay-breasted Warbler** was a singing male near Granite Falls, *Snohomish* 27 Jun (†B. Boyes), while one at Malheur 2-3 Jun (J. Meredith) added to about 11 prior Oregon records, most of which were during late May/early Jun in se. Oregon. Two Black-and-white Warblers this summer was a bit below average: Floras L., *Curry* 3 Jun (DL, KC) and near Monument, *Grant* 24 Jun (P. Stoel, K. Josephson). In w. Washington, only one American Redstart was found: County Line Ponds, *Skagit* 3 Jul (TA). On the e. slope of the Cascades, where rare, three pairs with nests were at Trout L., *Klickitat* 16 Jun—7 Jul, a new site for this species (B. Hansen, S. Johnston), and one pair was near Sisters, *Deschutes*—at least the 3rd consecutive summer for this location (K. Sparkman). A singing Ovenbird near Trout L. 16 Jun was the 18th for Washington, most of which were late May—late Jun (B. Hansen, S. Johnston); another Ovenbird at South Beach, *Lincoln* 25 Jun was the 3rd for Oregon this "spring" and about the 45th overall (E. Horvath). A Yellow-breasted Chat was at Rockport, *Skagit* 8 Jun—4 Jul (SM, DD, S. Terry), while a pair was present throughout Jun/Jul at Steigerwald, *Clark* (WC); since 1970, there have been only 26 w. Washington records, and there have been no recent breeding records, though this species likely bred in *Clark* some 50 years ago.

While surveying breeding birds, C.

Charlesworth found a remarkable 5 Clay-colored Sparrows e. of Oroville, *Okanogan* 31 May. Another was near Malott, *Okanogan* 16 Jun (†K. Allaire), and a pair fledged at least one young at K.I.R. (MM). Clay-colored are clearly increasing as a fall migrant in the Region, and summer records also seem to be on the rise. A gray-backed Fox Sparrow, calling like a Thick-billed, was at White Pass, *Yakima* 4 Jun (BT). Thick-billed breed in the n. Oregon Cascades, but there are no records from Washington, and the northernmost Thick-billed are relatively small-billed, making them difficult to separate visually from Slate-colored Fox Sparrows. A Golden-crowned Sparrow at Hardy Canyon, *Yakima* 7 Jun (CW) was several weeks late, but one at Portland 4 Jul (D. Bailey) provided an extremely rare midsummer record. Oregon had 10 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks this summer, about double the recent norm, mostly during Jun; in Washington, male Rose-breasted were at Vantage, *Kittitas* 30 May (M. Bentley), Cle Elum, *Kittitas* 7-8 Jun (K. & K. Johnson, ph. DG), and Spokane 6-13 Jun (ph. JA); Washington averages only one per summer. A male Indigo Bunting at Takilma, *Josephine* 12 Jun added to approximately 50 previous Oregon records (B. Gray).

A male Tricolored Blackbird at Potholes Res., *Grant* 20 Jul was nicely between that species's only known Washington breeding location near Wilson Cr. and the site of most winter reports, Othello (†J. Watson). In w. Oregon, a male *Tricolored* successfully nested with a female *Red-winged* at Fernhill Wetlands (HN). Thirty Yellow-headed Blackbirds at Ridgefield 27 Jul likely provided a record w. Washington summer high count, probably indicative of good breeding success there (SM).

A **Great-tailed Grackle** at Othello, *Adams* 15 Jul (†BF) was only Washington's 3rd, while singles at Fields 8 Jun (J. Rodecap), Baskett Slough, *Polk* 8 Jun (D. Smith), and Antelope Res., *Malheur* 16 Jun (C. Miller, M. Miller) provided an above-average summer for Oregon. An **Orchard Oriole** at Riley Pond, *Harney* 7 Jun was about the 8th for Oregon but the 3rd within the last year (J. Harding, B. Thackaberry). White-winged Crossbills were again present in small numbers at scattered locations this summer, with 10 near Roger L., *Okanogan* 15 Jun (BL, NL), 4 at Rogers L., *Okanogan* 17 Jul (K. Allaire), one at Harts Pass, *Okanogan* 17 Jul (K. Allaire), and 2 near Sisters, *Deschutes* 6 Jul (SS). Two **Common Redpolls** mysteriously appeared at a feeder near Bandon 11 Jul (ph. C. Ray) to supply a first Regional summer

record; s. coastal Oregon has very few redpoll records at any time of year.

CORRIGENDA AND ADDENDUM

The Yellow-bellied Sapsucker from Washington last winter was actually Washington's 4th, not 3rd, while the Common Yellowthroat from e. Washington provided the 2nd e. Washington winter record, not the first. A Brewer's Sparrow was on Rattlesnake Ridge, *King* 12 Jun 2001 providing w. Washington with only its 9th record and the first from a montane habitat (B. Boyes).

Initialed observers (subregional editors in boldface): Kevin Aanerud, Jim Acton, **Tom Aversa** (Washington), Casey Beachell, David Beaudette, Wilson Cady, Kathy Castelein, Alan Contreras, Mike Denny, Merry Lynn Denny, Don DeWitt (DDW), Dennis Duffy, **Joe Engler** (*Clark*), Bob Flores, Joel Geier, Roy Gerig, **Denny Granstrand** (*Yakima*), Hendrik Herlyn, Warren Hall, Randy Hill, Ken Knittle, **Bill LaFramboise** (Columbia Basin), Nancy LaFramboise, David Lauten, Paul Lehman, Scott Mills (SMi), Matt Moskwik, **Harry Nehls** (Oregon), **Bob Norton** (Olympic Peninsula), Robert Paine, Michael Patterson, Ted Peterson, Phil Pickering, Tim Rodenkirk, Ryan T. Shaw (RTS), Steve Shunk, **Kevin Spencer** (e. Oregon), **Dan Stephens** (*Chelan*), Andy Stepniewski, Patrick Sullivan (PtS), Ruth Sullivan, Todd Thornton, William Tice, Greg Toffic, Iain Tomlinson, Terry J. Wahl, Terry R. Wahl, Bob Woodley, Tim Wootton, Charlie Wright.



Middle Pacific Coast



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Weather drew little comment this season, but the descriptions we did receive were generally along the lines of “hot” and “dry.” Drought conditions can have a major impact on reproductive success and may result in large-scale movements during the breeding period. Major early movements of record numbers of species such as Blue-winged Teal and Wilson’s Phalarope were likely drought-related, following on the probable drought-related incursions reported in the spring column. The variety and number of vagrants at coastal migrant traps were generally lackluster, as weather and winds favorable for fallouts failed to materialize.

Abbreviations: C.B.R.C. (California Bird Records Committee); C.P. (County Park), C.C.F.S. (Coyote Creek Field Station), C.V. (Central Valley); F.C.B. (Flood Control Basin); F.I. (Southeast Farallon I., *San Francisco*); N.P. (National Park); P.R.B.O. (Point Reyes Bird Observatory); R.S. (Regional Shoreline); S.F. (San Francisco); S.R. (State Reserve); W.A. (Wildlife Area).

Luke W. Cole has stepped in to cover Thrashers to Finches for Don Roberson this season and has done such an admirable job that we may see more of him in the future. Reports of exceptional vagrants submitted without documentation are normally not published. Observers wishing C.B.R.C. review should also send their documentation to Guy McCaskie, Secretary, P.O. Box 275, San Diego, CA 91933. Banded birds on F.I. should also be credited to Point Reyes Bird Observatory, those banded at Big Sur R. mouth to Big Sur Ornithology Lab of the Ventana Wilderness Society.

LOONS THROUGH PELICANS

Rare inland, especially in mid-summer, a Pacific Loon was on Lundy I., *Mono* 16 Jun—7 Jul (Leslie Flint, m. ob.). Sixty-two and 30 Buller’s Shearwaters seen from two shore locations along the *San Mateo* coast 27 Jul (RSTh, PJM) were high numbers for this early in the season and from shore. A very well-documented Manx Shearwater 2 Jun 0.8 km w. of Ft. Bragg was a first for *Mendocino* (†PP, †TMcK, †RJK, †DT, m. ob.); most California records are from Monterey Bay. Inshore cold water persisted through the period, and only 2 Black-vented Shearwaters were reported, both from coastal *San Mateo* (RSTh). Two Brown Pelicans at Mono I., an imm. 3 Jun and an ad. 29 Jun, represented about the 5th and 6th records for *Mono* (JuH, m. ob.). This species is scarce inland in the Region, especially e. of the Sierra divide.

BITTERNS THROUGH DUCKS

An ad. Least Bittern at Olema Marsh, *Marin* 4 Jun (ES) was the first reported at this location since they bred there in 1998. No Little Blue Herons were reported from anywhere in the Region this summer. None has been detected near the Alviso heronry in *Santa Clara* since 4 Jul 2001, and the fate of our Region’s few breeding pairs may be in doubt. Cattle Egrets were likewise not noted in the Alviso heronry this year, although they did breed for the 2nd year in a row at Hayward R.S., *Alameda* (RJR). Black-crowned Night-Herons nested again at Pt. Lobos, *Monterey*, with 3 nests found (BJW). A single bird seen 14 Jul at L. Alpine, *Alpine* was a county first (Phil & Ann-Sofie Dean). A remarkable find was the Region’s 3rd **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron**, discovered 23 Jul at Coyote Pt., *San Mateo* (†RSTh, ph. AdW) and remaining to be enjoyed by many through the next day. The previous two records were of a bird that returned to San Rafael, *Marin* for six sum-

mers 1968-1973 and one that spent 12 Sep—17 Oct 1981 at Año Nuevo S. R., *San Mateo*. White-faced Ibis did well at the Sutter N. W. R., *Sutter*, with an estimated 15,000 to 20,000 birds forming 5000 breeding pairs and producing 8000 young (Mike Peters, Mike Wolder). The only coastal reports were of a single bird at Moonglow Dairy, *Monterey* 1 Jun (BHG, RF) and 3 in Petaluma, *Sonoma* 18 Jul (RAR).

Blue-winged Teal were widely reported, but no evidence of breeding was obtained. Unseasonal Redheads were reported in several locations this summer. A male at Ukiah 16 Jun (CEV) was only the 2nd summer record for *Mendocino*; more surprising were 12 there 23 Jun (CEV), the largest flock ever found in the county! Even larger numbers were inland at the Davis Wetlands, *Yolo*, with up to 118 present 10-18 Jul (JKn). Small numbers graced south S.F. Bay, with a male at Hayward R. S., *Alameda* 1 Jul (RJR), a pair at the Sunnyvale W.P.C.P., *Santa Clara* 19 Jul (WGB), and 8 at the Palo Alto F.C.B., *Santa Clara* 27 Jul (MJM). Lesser Scaup bred successfully again in both *Alameda* (RJR) and *Santa Clara* (WGB). Up to 12 oversummering Harlequin Ducks at Virgin Cr. Beach, *Mendocino* 1 Jun—31 Jul (DT, BDP) more than doubled the peak numbers from the past several summers. Two unseasonal males were in Monterey Harbor, *Monterey* throughout the period (AB, Jerry Loomis, m. ob.). More spectacular was successful breeding by **Harlequin Ducks** along the Merced R. in Yosemite N. P., *Mariposa*, with a female seen 1 Jun (Sue & Jerry James) and 4 young observed with her 6 Jul—10 Aug (*fide* PKB). This is the first confirmed breeding in the park since the 1920s and the first in the state since the 1970s. Breeding Buffleheads were well documented this year, with 2 broods discovered in *Alpine* 23 Jun (LWC, JSL, JWG) and 2 more found in *Plumas* 26 Jun and 2 Aug (Colin Dillingham, Nancy Richard, Bob Schwartz, Chris Conard). Out-of-place nonbreeders were on Salt Pond A1 in Mountain View, *Santa Clara* 2 Jun (MMR) and at the Yolo W. A., *Yolo* 16 Jun (SCH). A rare summer Common Goldeneye was at Clifton Court Forebay, *Contra Costa* 7 Jul (DSW, Dorothy Furseth).

HAWKS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

Several reports of nesting Ospreys were received, including some from new areas. Six active nests were located in *Merced* and *Stanislaus* (JHG), 2 were at the s. end of Mare I., *Solano* 15 Jun (Wally Neville, RLCL), and a begging juv. was seen 19 Jul

close to the San Vicente Cr., *Santa Cruz* nest site used in past years (Jim Williams). Bald Eagles bred again at L. Sonoma, *Sonoma* (BBu, Randy Gibbons), as well as at a new site in *Napa* in Pope Valley (John O'Connell, Bill Grummer). Imm. Swainson's Hawks wandered to Clear Lake S.P. 20 Jul (*Lake's* 3rd; DCR, HG) and Alviso, *Santa Clara* 27 Jul (JiD). Wild Turkeys continue to do well. Several reported at Markleeville 23 Jun (JSL) were a first for *Alpine*. Calling Yellow Rails were detected near Ft. Bidwell, *Modoc* (Geoff Keller, MSanM, JLD) through at least 24 Jun and near Mt. Shasta, *Siskiyou* 15-25 Jul (Len Lindstrand, Julian Colescott). Such observations give hope that this species may still breed at remote locations in the state. Black Rail censuses in *Napa* were exceptionally productive, with 30 birds detected 6 Jun (Wally Neville, Jamie Fenneman).

Unusual for outer Pt. Reyes, *Marin*, a pair of ad. Black-necked Stilts was seen at the Mendoza Ranch 5 Jun (RS). Snowy Plovers on the move included one at the Davis Wetlands, *Yolo* 30 Jul (JKn) and one at Tahoe Keys Marina, *El Dorado* 31 Jul (JSL). A faded basic-plumaged Lesser Yellowlegs at the Mountain View Forebay, *Santa Clara* 18 Jun was likely oversummering in the area (WGB). Seven Jul Solitary Sandpipers were more than expected, with birds at the Davis Wetlands, *Yolo* 9 & 24 Jul (JKn); Modesto, *Stanislaus* 23 Jul (ph. JHG); Mono L., *Mono* 23 & 26 Jul (Debbie House, JuH, Vireo Gaines); Redwood Shores, *San Mateo* 28 Jul (RSTh); and *El Dorado's* 2nd at Tahoe Keys Marina 31 Jul (JSL). Spotted Sandpipers were found breeding at two new locations in *Santa Clara* (MMR). Following this spring's bird, 3 Ruddy Turnstones were seen at Mono L., *Mono* 26 Jul (JuH, Vireo Gaines). Ad. Sanderlings were found inland at the Davis Wetlands, *Yolo* 22-25 Jul (JKn) and at Lodi, *San Joaquin* 31 Jul (DGY). Sightings of Semipalmated Sandpipers conservatively included at least 6 ads. (1-30 Jul) and 11 juvs. (27-31 Jul) in eight counties. A juv. at Trinity Center 31 Jul (BED) was *Trinity's* 3rd. Early returning Baird's Sandpipers were found at Crissy Field, S.F. 28 Jul (Dan Cooper) and at Salinas, *Monterey* the same day (RF). A Stilt Sandpiper at C.C.F.S. 10-12 Jun (RWR, FV, m. ob.) was the first summer record for *Santa Clara* and apparently also the first Jun record for the Region. Its unseasonal occurrence may have resulted from a leg injury. A female Ruff also at C.C.F.S. 30 Jul (Pat Kenny, Roland Kenner, m. ob.) was presumably the same bird that wintered in

Alviso last year and perhaps also in prior years. Record-high numbers of Wilson's Phalaropes staged at Mono L., *Mono*, with 100,000-130,000 estimated 31 Jul (Joe Jehl).

GULLS THROUGH ALCIDS

Rare in the Region, especially in the interior, a Laughing Gull at Mono L. 4-26 Jul was a first for *Mono* (EP, JuH). After several seasons of successful nesting, Heermann's Gulls at Roberts L., *Monterey* were unsuccessful for the 2nd year in a row (DR). A gull thought to be a juv. **Band-tailed (Belcher's) Gull** was at Natural Bridges S.P., *Santa Cruz* 6 Jul (†SGe). If accepted by the C.B.R.C., this would represent the first for the Region; there is only one previous accepted record in w. North America (San Diego; Aug 97—Jan 98). A Mew Gull at Mono L. 16 Jul was rare inland, especially in summer (*Mono's* 2nd; JuH, EP).

Caspian Terns returned to nest at Sand I., Humboldt Bay, *Humboldt* for a 2nd year; this colony had not been active since the 1970s (MWa, DFX). A midsummer Arctic Tern at Crowley L., *Mono* 7-14 Jul (ph. JCS, m. ob.) was quite remarkable for an inland location; most Jul records are coastal, with the few inland records coming from fall. Quite rare n. of S.F. Bay, the first Least Tern (an ad.) in *Humboldt* in 24 years was at the Elk R. mouth, Eureka 22 Jul (MWa, SWH, †DFX, JCP). Unusually high numbers of post-breeding Least Terns were reported in *San Mateo* this year, with 96 at Ravenswood N.W.R. 21 Jul (RSTh) and 53 at Coyote Pt. 23 Jul (AME) being the high counts reported. A Black Skimmer at the Martinez R.S., *Contra Costa* 12 Jul—17 Aug (Rob Thomas et al.) had been banded 7 Aug 1998 at Bolsa Chica in s. California. This species continues to nest successfully in S.F. Bay in *Alameda* (RJR), *San Mateo* (PJM), and *Santa Clara* (WGB, MJM et al.).

An endangered species, Marbled Murrelets were reported from several new locations in the Santa Cruz Mts., *Santa Cruz*, including Empire Grade (2) 9 Jun, Whitehouse Cr. (2-3) 16 Jul, and Majors Cr. (2) 27 Jul (DLSu). A juv. was found 30 Aug in Purisima Cr. Redwoods Preserve, *San Mateo* (*fide* Cindy Roessler). Annual in recent years, an alternate-plumaged Long-billed Murrelet was reported without details off *Humboldt* 10 Jul (EE, *fide* DFX). The majority of Regional records are from late summer and early fall. A Craveri's Murrelet offshore of Albion 25 Jul was a first for *Mendocino* (†EE, Jason Coburn, Brit O'Brien). This species is scarce n. of *Marin*. Single Horned Puffins were observed off *Mendocino* 11 Jun (EE) and near Cordell Bank, *Marin* 21 Jul (ph. RS,

†RAR, SBT, m. ob.). Most Regional records occur during summer months.

CUCKOOS THROUGH FLYCATCHERS

A mountaineering Yellow-billed Cuckoo, accidental in the Region away from C.V. breeding haunts, was at Fallen Leaf L. 11 Jun (*El Dorado's* first; ph. Will Richardson). Cuckoos were also found along the lower Eel R., *Humboldt* for the 3rd consecutive summer: one and possibly 2 were at Singley Bar 5 Jul (SMcA), and another was near Cock Robin I. 23 Jul (Gary Falxa). A Greater Roadrunner at Redding, *Shasta* 24 Jul was the first found in that area in 20 years (Ruth Jessen). Three Long-eared Owl fledglings along Pinehurst Rd. near Moraga 8 Jul were the first nesting confirmation for *Contra Costa* (RJR). Coastal Lesser Nighthawks were at the Big Sur R. mouth 2 Jun (DR, RC, RF) and 15 Jun (Andrew Rush); another Lesser at the surprisingly lofty altitude of 1470 m at Boardman Ridge 21 Jun was a first for *Lake* (†MMtt). An unidentified nighthawk 27 Jun was a rarity for *Santa Cruz* (SGe). The demise of nesting Black Swifts in *Santa Cruz's* historic breeding sites. Though there were 10 sightings, nine were well within typical dates for spring migrants, and the site of the 10th record was checked repeatedly on subsequent dates, to no avail (DLSu, m. ob.). A single Chimney Swift at the Big Sur R. mouth, *Monterey* 11 Jun was the only one reported (†RbF). An Anna's Hummingbird nest near June L. 20 Jun provided *Mono's* first breeding record (ph. KNN).

A tantalizing sighting of a Lewis's Woodpecker at Los Vaqueros Res. 7 Jun unfortunately pertained to a late migrant rather than a nester; there are no breeding records for *Contra Costa* (SAG). A pair of Western Wood-Pewees with a fledgling at Mt. Davidson 4-9 Jul strongly suggests that breeding occurred, but this has yet to be proven in *S.F.* (PSa). As is typical, a smattering of Willow Flycatchers was detected along the coast during the first two weeks of Jun, but surprising were single unseasonal birds at Coyote Pt., *San Mateo* 25 Jul (RSTh) and C.C.F.S., *Santa Clara* 28 Jul (*fide* MMR). Encouraging news for this beleaguered species included a female with an egg in its oviduct at the Van Duzen R. mouth as well as at least 4 territorial males throughout the period along the lower Van Duzen, Eel, and Mad Rivers (all *Humboldt*; RHw, LBJ Enterprises). Other unusual *Empidonax* included a vagrant Least Flycatcher at



This cooperative Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, only the third for the Region, was enjoyed by many at Coyote Point, San Mateo County 23-24 July (here 23 July) 2002. Photograph by Adam Winer.

Shasta Valley W.A., *Siskiyou* 14-15 Jun (†RE, Neal Clark) and lightly-birded *Amador's* first Gray Flycatcher at Kirkwood Meadows 20 Jul (TS, Fritz Steurer). An Eastern Phoebe near Crissy Field 15 Jun was a nice find for *S.F.* (†HuC). Vagrant Eastern Kingbirds reached *Humboldt* at Freshwater Lagoon 6 Jun (KI) and near Cape Ranch 22 Jun (GSL); singles near Ft. Bidwell, *Modoc* 24 Jun (Mike San Miguel, JLD) and at *Shasta Valley W.A.*, *Siskiyou* 9 Jun—6 Jul (RE) were in areas where breeding has been suspected. A well-watched Scissor-tailed Flycatcher at Año Nuevo S.R. 12-27 Jul added spice to *San Mateo's* summer (Arch Mott; †PJM, m. ob.).

VIREOS THROUGH SILKY-FLYCATCHERS

A Yellow-throated Vireo 8 Jun was at the Big Sur R. mouth, *Monterey*, a site that in recent years has hosted several individuals of this normally accidental species (†Cho, Robert Horn). Bank Swallows at Martis L., *Placer/Nevada* 1 Jun (Cliff Hawley), Fernbridge, *Humboldt* 14 Jun (TMcK), and Silver L., *Amador* 20 Jul (2; TS, Fritz Steurer) were well away from known breeding sites. Unseasonal nuthatches included a Red-breasted 17 Jun in Pacific Grove, *Monterey* (BJW) and a White-breasted at Big Sur R. mouth, *Monterey* 16 Jul (Jason Scott). A territorial Winter Wren 23 Jun—9 Jul at Kirkwood, *Alpine* was at the unusually high altitude of 2400 m (JSL). Extremely late was a Ruby-crowned Kinglet on F.I. 13 Jun (P.R.B.O.). An ad. male Mountain Bluebird at Mendocino Pass, *Mendocino* 18 Jun was in an

area where breeding has been suspected in the past (Linda Angerer).

SA Many species known to breed in the Coast Ranges and Sierran foothills are unknown as breeders on the C.V. floor, making this summer's happenings at the Cosumnes R. Preserve, *Sacramento* extremely intriguing. A female *non-Black-chinned* Hummingbird was found building a nest 1 May (Julian Wood, P.R.B.O.) and reidentified as a *Selasphorus* when feeding young in late May (Jill Coumoutso, P.R.B.O.). It was identified as an Allen's on 2 Jun (JTr; details to appear elsewhere; not seen by us). There were no previous nest records for the C.V. A male Cassin's Vireo present throughout the summer wasn't thought to be breeding until it was found feeding a fledgling 6 Aug (JTr). This was apparently another C.V. first. A singing Swainson's Thrush as well as up to 3 calling birds were present into Aug, but what would be yet another C.V. breeding first could not be confirmed (JTr et al.). Dark-eyed Juncos, not known to breed anywhere else in the C.V., bred for the 3rd consecutive year.

A summer rash of Mimidae in *Mono* included 2 Gray Catbirds, one singing male at Lundy L. 22 Jun—3 Jul (Dan Cooper) and a female near *Mono* L. 20 Jun (ph. NH), a Northern Mockingbird at Wilson Cr. 2 Jul (KNN), a Brown Thrasher at *Mono Lake C.P.* 14 Jun (MT), and a LeConte's Thrasher at Fish Slough 6 Jun (DP). A Brown Thrasher

was at Five Brooks Pond, *Marin* 10-11 Jun (RS, vt. KH). Ad. Cedar Waxwings feeding 2 fledglings in Palo Alto 16 Jun provided *Santa Clara*'s first breeding record (DLSu); *Contra Costa*'s first was an ad. feeding a fledgling in Concord 4 Jun (SAG). Five Phainopeplas w. of their normal range in *Santa Clara* suggest a minor invasion, while single birds at Frazier Canyon, *Mono* 20 Jun (PJM) and Arcata, *Humboldt* (PFS) were unexpected.

WARBLERS

Five reports of Virginia's Warbler from *Mono* 20-29 Jun (PJM, ES, Sally Miller, NH), including breeding at Frazier Canyon, are a hopeful sign that the bird may be on the rebound there; last year's breeding was the first detected in *Mono* since 1975. Thirteen Northern Parula reports were strewn along the coast; among *Santa Cruz*'s 4 were a female at a nest with 2 young at Scott Cr. 8-12 Jul, the first county breeding confirmation (CGE, DLSu). Four others were at various *Mono* locales (KNN, ES, PMc). A pair of Yellow Warblers with a fledgling at San Joaquin N.W.R. 19-20 Jun provided *Stanislaus*'s first confirmed breeding record (KM).

Regular spring vagrant warblers along the coast and at F.I. in Jun included Tennessee (one), Chestnut-sided (6), Black-and-white (5), and American Redstart (11). More unusual on F.I. were 2 Magnolia Warblers, a Blackpoll 26-27 Jun, and a lingering Ovenbird 25 Jun—9 Jul (PP). East of the Sierran crest, mid-Jun migrants included a Chestnut-sided Warbler, a Black-and-white Warbler, and 2 American Redstarts in *Mono*. A male Black-and-white Warbler 19 Jun along the Klamath R. (Mike Robbins) was *Siskiyou*'s 3rd record. A male Audubon's Warbler feeding a young cowbird with the female nearby at the East Wash was only the 2nd nesting record for *S.F.* (ES, Mike McClaskey); the first was last year at the same location. Interesting in *Lassen* was a male Bay-breasted Warbler 4 Jun at Secret Cr. (RS). A female Prothonotary Warbler was at San Gregorio, *San Mateo* 6 Jun (JM).

Humboldt had 3 Ovenbirds, while another was singing in a montane forest at Waterman Gap, *Santa Cruz* 5 Jun (DLSu). A Northern Waterthrush was at Arroyo Leon, *San Mateo* 2 Jun (RSTh); another was singing at Fernbridge, *Humboldt* 14 Jun (TMcK). A singing male Common Yellowthroat 23 Jun at Malakoff Diggins S.P. (David Lukas) was intriguing, as there are no breeding records for *Nevada*. The only Hooded Warbler was a singing male 30 Jun—4 Jul at Julia Pfeiffer Burns S.P., *Monterey* (Larry & Matthew

Schmall, Rob Caldwell). It was a good season for Yellow-breasted Chat, with multiple reports of migrants and breeders. Three singing males at Año Nuevo S.R., *San Mateo* 1 Jun (PJM) dwindled to a single bird seen throughout the period (DSg, m. ob.), while singing males at Llagas Cr. 16 Jun and Coyote Res. 16-25 Jun were likely breeders in *Santa Clara* (MMR, MJM, RWR, FV).

TANAGERS THROUGH SPARROWS

A female Summer Tanager was at San Gregorio, *San Mateo* 23 Jun (RSTh), and a singing male was at Big Basin Redwoods S.P., *Santa Cruz* 17 Jun (DLSu). A displaying Cassin's Sparrow 1 Jun near Crowley L. (†Bruce Barrett) would be only the 2nd record for *Mono* and the interior of our Region if accepted by the C.B.R.C.; the Region's 13 other records are from the coast, 12 from F.I. An ad. Clay-colored Sparrow 10 Jun at Younger Lagoon (†SGe) is the first summer record for *Santa Cruz*.

It was a strong summer for Black-chinned Sparrows and Grasshopper Sparrows, with four times as many Black-chinned reports as in recent years. Five different Grasshopper reports from *Humboldt* was high (DFx), while one 18 Jun along Maxwell Rd. in *Amador* (TS) may be an expansion of a nearby breeding population in *Sacramento*. It was a good year for Black-throated Sparrows, presumably as a result of drought conditions elsewhere. A male mist-netted 21 Jun near Calpine was *Sierra*'s 2nd record (MMC, Debbie Hansen, Jim Steele, Liz Phegan), while singing males were at Diamond Valley Road, *Alpine* (elev. 1650 m) 9 & 23 Jun (5 birds; JSL, LWC, JWtg). Others were at scattered locations in *Mono* (KNN) and also at Folsom L., *El Dorado* 17 Jun, where they had been absent for some years (TS). One at Pescadero, *San Mateo* 14 Jun was unexpected (RSTh). Normally an uncommon winter visitor, a Swamp Sparrow was at Arroyo Leon, *San Mateo* 4 Jun (RSTh).

GROSBEAKS THROUGH FINCHES

A mere 25 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks was down from last year's record of 30; away from the coast, single males were coming to feeders in Lafayette, *Contra Costa* 27 Jun—1 Jul (Maury Stern) and Glenshire, *Nevada* 4 Jun (Martin Meyers; 4th county record). Blue Grosbeaks were widespread, with twice as many reports as in recent years. A singing male along Jackson Cr. 27 Jun was unexpected in *Amador* (TS). Nine Indigo Buntings seemed average: all were in coastal or Bay Area counties except a male at Cosumnes R.

Preserve, *Sacramento* (JTr) and one 21 Jun at Dechambeau Cr., *Mono* (GB). The lone Bobolink reported was at El Granada, *San Mateo* 16 Jun (RSTh).

A female Tricolored Blackbird 21 Jul in the Sierra Valley was only the 3rd record for *Plumas* (Colin Dillingham, Angela Dillingham). Great-tailed Grackles continued their siege of the state, with this summer bringing nesting records for Hayward Shoreline, *Alameda* 1 Jul (RJR; 2nd county nest record), McNabney Marsh, *Contra Costa* (Hugh & Rosita Harvey, Roger Muscat), Parkway Lakes, *Santa Clara* (MJM, MMR, m. ob.), and at the Bridgeport Sewage Ponds and Mono Lake C.P., *Mono* (PJM, m. ob.). Elsewhere, Great-taileds were in *Placer* (>6, Paul Beach, BDW, EP), *Colusa* (BED), *Solano* (Susan Johnson), *San Joaquin*, *Monterey*, and *Santa Cruz*. Hooded Orioles were less often reported than in recent summers, but 2 at Ione, *Amador* 22 Jun (JSL, TS, LWC) and one at Mono Lake C.P., *Mono* 4 Jul (MMA) may be evidence of further range expansion. Three Baltimore Orioles were more than expected: 3 Jun in Calistoga, *Napa* (Wayne Tillay, Bob Watts, Ralph Sherman), 29 Jun at Pescadero, *San Mateo* (RSTh), and 5 Jul at Mono Lake C.P., *Mono* (MT).

Red Crossbills were widely scattered along the coast: 75 at Butano S.P., *San Mateo* 29 Jun (DLSu) were impressive, as were five different reports from the Santa Cruz Mts., *Santa Cruz* (DLSu), and one over Alum Rock Park, *Santa Clara* 9 Jun (EFe). Up to 10 were seen through the period at Ft. Bragg, *Mendocino* (DT). The spring invasion of Lawrence's Goldfinches continued into the summer, when they were found widely and in numbers from *Mendocino* (up to 17 birds in Hopland; CEV, RJK) to *Monterey*, many in unexpected places. A male and female near Antelope L., *Plumas* 22 Jun may be a first for that under-birded county (†Colin Dillingham, Angela Dillingham, DFX, JCP). A family group of Evening Grosbeaks in Alta Sierra 20 Jul marked the lowest known breeding in *Nevada* (660 m; Joan Armer).

Cited observers (county coordinators in boldface): Alan Baldrige, Grant Ballard, **William G. Bousman** (*Santa Clara*), **Penelope K. Bowen** (*Alpine* & *Calaveras*), Betty Burridge, Rita Carratello, Dennis Cavallo, **Luke W. Cole** (*Kings*), Hugh Cotter, Jim Danzenbaker, **Bruce E. Deuel** (*n. C.V. counties*), Jon L. Dunn, Alan M. Eisner, **Ray Ekstrom** (*Siskiyou*), Elias Elias, Chris G. Emmons, Eric Feuss, **David Fix** (*Humboldt*), Rick Fournier (RF), Rob Fowler (RbF), **James**

H. Gain (*Stanislaus*), Bruce H. Gerow, Steve Gerow, **Steven A. Glover** (*Contra Costa*), Helen Green, Noah Hamm, Steve C. Hampton, Keith Hansen, Stanley W. Harris, Rob Hewitt, Justin Hite, Craig Hohenberger, Ken Irwin, **Robert J. Keiffer** (*Mendocino*), Jon King, **Robin L. C. Leong** (*Napa & Solano*), Gary S. Lester, John S. Luther, Michael J. Mammoser, Matthew A. Matthiessen, Kim Maute, Mike Mayer, Sean McAllister, **J. "Mac" McCormack** (MMC; *Plumas & Sierra*), Paul

McFarland, Tristan McKee, **Peter J. Metropulos** (*San Mateo*), Joe Morlan, **Kristie N. Nelson** (*Mono*), **Ed Pandolfino** (*Placer*), Debbie Parker, Benjamin D. Parmeter, **Jude C. Power** (*Humboldt*), **Peter Pyle** (*F.I.*), Robert W. Reiling, David C. Rice, **Robert J. Richmond** (*Alameda*), **Don Roberson** (*Monterey*), Michael M. Rogers, **Ruth A. Rudesill** (*Sonoma*), Mike San Miguel, Paul Saraceni, Dan Singer, Paul F. Springer, Rich Stallcup, **John C. Sterling** (*Modoc*), **Tim**

Steurer (*El Dorado*), Emilie Strauss, **David L. Suddjian** (*Santa Cruz*), Moss Templeton, Scott B. Terrill, Ronald S. Thorn, Dorothy Tobkin, John Trochet, Frank Vanslager, Chuck E. Vaughn, Matt Wachs, Brian J. Weed, Denise S. Wight, **Brian D. Williams** (*Nevada*), Adam Winer, Jay Withgott, **David G. Yee** (*San Joaquin*). Many more observers were not specifically cited; all are much appreciated.



Southern Pacific Coast



mented in 2001 versus only nine in 2002). Records of many migrant passerines in the coastal and desert lowlands throughout late June and early July were difficult to classify as late spring birds, early fall birds, or simply wanderers, but these were also likely reflective of poor breeding success. Most nesting larids did poorly at the Salton Sea, with all attempts by California Gulls and nearly all those by Black Skimmers failing, and Gull-billed Terns fledging fewer young than in recent years (KCM).

Abbreviations: C.L. (China Lake Naval Air Weapons Station, extreme ne. *Kern*); E.A.F.B. (Edwards Air Force Base, se. *Kern*); F.C.R. (Furnace Creek Ranch, Death Valley National Monument, *Inyo*); G.H.P. (Galileo Hill Park in extreme e. *Kern*); N.E.S.S. (n. end of the Salton Sea, *Riverside*); S.C.R.E. (Santa Clara River Estuary near Ventura, *Ventura*); S.E.S.S. (s. end of the Salton Sea, *Imperial*); S.F.K.R.P. (South Fork Kern River Preserve near Weldon, *Kern*); V.A.F.B. (Vandenberg Air Force Base in nw. *Santa Barbara*); V.C.G.P. (Ventura County Game Preserve near Pt. Mugu Naval Air Station, *Ventura*). Because virtually all rarities in s. California are seen by many observers, only the observer(s) initially finding and identifying the bird are included. Documentation for species on the California Bird Records Committee (C.B.R.C.) review list is forwarded to the C.B.R.C. Secretary and archived at the Western Foundation for Vertebrate Zoology in Camarillo.

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Following a record dry winter, there was virtually no precipitation during the two months of summer, resulting in dangerously dry conditions throughout the foothills and mountains and a series of extensive high-intensity fires. Breeding passerines appeared to have fared poorly in the Region. Results of a multi-year study conducted by Doug Bolger and Michael A. Patten of Dartmouth College documented a nearly complete reproductive collapse of nesting Wrentits, Spotted Towhees, California Towhees, and Rufous-crowned Sparrows (258 nest attempts docu-

FULMARS THROUGH GROUSE

A Northern Fulmar near Santa Cruz I. 9 Jun (DMH) was probably attempting to summer locally. A Flesh-footed Shearwater, rare in s. California waters, was off the e. side of Santa Cruz I. 8 Jun (DMH). A subad. dark-morph **Red-footed Booby**, entangled in fishing line, was captured in La Jolla, *San Diego* 20 Jul (MF, GMcC). For the 2nd consecutive year, no frigatebirds were reported in the Region.

An American Bittern on the Wister Unit at S.E.S.S. 18 May—15 Jun (GMcC, JF) was one of a very few ever to be found at the Salton Sea in summer. The ad. Little Blue Herons found at Bolsa Chica, *Orange* 9 May remained through the period (DRW), another found in the Prado Basin, *Riverside/San Bernardino* 10 May remained into Jul (JEP), and single ads. in Carpinteria, *Santa Barbara* 9-11 Jun (DMC), Point Mugu, *Ventura* 10 Jul + (MR), Irvine, *Orange* 18 Jul (DC) and near Lakeview, *Riverside* 12-14 Jun (BS, JFG) were all away from coastal *San Diego*, where resident. A Tricolored Heron at Point Mugu 25 Jun+(MR) was unusually far n. and the only one reported. Imm. Reddish Egrets at the Tijuana R. mouth, *San Diego* 14 Jul (DH), at the San Diego R. mouth 18 Jul (MB) and in Costa Mesa/Huntington Beach, *Orange* 27 Jul+(LRH) may have involved a single bird moving n. along the coast, and the one found at Point Mugu 15 Sep 2001 was still present at the end of the period (MR). A subad. Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, a casual straggler to California, was at San Elijo Lagoon, *San Diego* 11 Jun+ (BC). Wood Storks did not arrive at the S.E.S.S. until early Jul; this species was formerly a common post-breeding visitor to the Salton Sea (present from late May into Oct), but numbers have steadily dropped during the past 20 years, and a high count of only 23 was obtained this summer on 11 Jul (TA).

Again, there was no evidence of Fulvous Whistling-Ducks breeding in *Imperial*; a group of up to 9 present at various locations in the Imperial Valley and at S.E.S.S. 10-28 Jun (AK, JF, GMcC, BM) appeared to be non-breeders wandering through the area. The presence of an ad. Sharp-shinned Hawk near Arroyo Grande, *San Luis Obispo* 6-10 Jul (BKS) suggests nesting in that area. An imm. Northern Goshawk at Rock Creek L., *Inyo* 21 Jul (CH & RB) was in an area where this species probably breeds. A Harris's Hawk continued near Blythe, *Riverside* through the period (RH). Remarkably, the Broad-winged Hawk that arrived on San Clemente I. 31 Oct 2001 was still present at the end of the period (BLS). A Crested Caracara was present on n.

V.A.F.B. Jul 14-23 (BKH), and another was photographed near Lakeview, *Riverside* 4 Jul (TS); previous reports of this species in California are suspected to be of escapees.

An extensive survey of Blue Grouse throughout the historic breeding areas of *Kern* in Apr yielded only 8 birds in the Sunday Peak area of the Greenhorn Mts., probably the only remaining birds in the county (JB1).

RAILS THROUGH PUFFINS

A calling Black Rail near Blythe 2-7 Jun (RH) could not be relocated after the area was sprayed to kill aquatic vegetation. A Solitary Sandpiper at Blythe 2 Jun (RH) was late for a spring migrant, and one near Independence, *Inyo* 15 Jul (RAH) was the first of the fall. A Wandering Tattler, a casual straggler to the interior in fall, was at S.E.S.S. 20 Jul (BMi). An ad. Semipalmated Sandpiper with a flock of migrant Western Sandpipers at S.E.S.S. 28 Jun (GMcC) establishes the earliest date for a fall migrant in California; one in Long Beach, *Los Angeles* 27 Jul (KL), 3 in Goleta, *Santa Barbara* (PAG), and one in Irvine, *Orange* 30 Jul (LDT), along with 3 in San Diego 31 Jul (RTP) were the earliest juvs. A Baird's Sandpiper in Irvine 27 Jul (MSanM) was the earliest this fall.

Two South Polar Skuas, scarce but regular in s. California waters in spring, were near Santa Cruz I. 9 Jun (DMH). A Laughing Gull at C.L. 5-7 Jun (SSt) was only the 4th to be found in *Kern*, one at Bolsa Chica 30 Jun (AL) was on the coast where rare, and another at Blythe 28 Jul+(RH) coincided with the influx of post-breeding birds to the Salton Sea. A Franklin's Gull at S.E.S.S. 2 Jun (GMcC) and another at C.L. 5-7 Jun (SSt) were probably late migrants, but another at N.E.S.S. 23 Jun (GMcC) may have been summering locally. An ad. Heermann's Gull, a rare but regular visitor to the Salton Sea, was at N.E.S.S. 10 Jun (DN), and up to 2 were at S.E.S.S. 31 Mar—6 Jul (GMcC); one flying n. up Earthquake Valley in e. *San Diego* 3 Jul (JBa) was obviously lost. A worn imm. Mew Gull at S.E.S.S. 2-23 Jun (GMcC) was evidently attempting to summer locally, and a bedraggled Thayer's Gull at N.E.S.S. 31 May—23 Jun (GMcC) was clearly attempting to do so. About 80 pairs of Gull-billed Terns nested at S.E.S.S., with moderate success, but fewer than 50 pairs each of Caspian Terns and Black Skimmers nested, and nearly all attempts failed; similarly, all 30 California Gull nest attempts failed there (KCM). Two ad. Least Terns with a flying juv. at S.E.S.S. 27 Jul (GMcC) were at the same location where 2 ads. had been present 4 May—2 Jun (GMcC),

which suggests local nesting; however, nesting is unrecorded at the Salton Sea. A Tufted Puffin off the e. end of Santa Cruz I. 8 Jun (DMH) is one of a very few reported in s. California waters in recent years.

PIGEONS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

A Band-tailed Pigeon at G.H.P. 7 Jun (TEW) and another on San Clemente I. 30 Jun (BLS) had wandered far from the nearest areas of normal occurrence. A Eurasian Collared-Dove on San Clemente I. 5 Jul (JTB) was the first to reach the Channel Islands. A White-winged Dove at Wofford Heights, *Kern* 4 Jul (NJS) was nw. of the species's breeding range, and another on San Clemente I. 28 Jun (BLS) was well to the west. An Inca Dove photographed in Whittier, *Los Angeles* 2 Jun (CA) was well to the w. of this species's expanding range and may have been an escapee.

A **Black-billed Cuckoo** at Pachalka Springs on the w. side of Clark Mt., *San Bernardino* 24 Jun (JA, DNo, SSo) is the 16th to be found in California but the first in spring. A Yellow-billed Cuckoo near Blythe 2-10 Jun (RH) and another at G.H.P. 12 Jun (KSG) were probably normally occurring migrants, but single birds near Lakeview, *Riverside* 30 Jun (HBK), at Finney L., *Imperial* 7 Jul (TMcG), at S.E.S.S. 13 Jul (GMcC), and in Manhattan Beach, *Los Angeles* 20 Jul (DMH) were late for migrants, so presumably wanderers; 10 pairs were at known nesting areas at S.F.K.R.P. after 15 Jun (MH), and single birds in Bishop 5-6 Jun (J&DP) and at Scissors Crossing in e. *San Diego* in Jul (JBa) were in suitable breeding habitat.

The presence of a Long-eared Owl on San Clemente I. 20 Jul (BLS) suggests nesting. Calling Whip-poor-wills near Heart Bar Campground in the San Bernardino Mts. through Jun (HBK, AEK) suggest breeding at that location, but breeding has yet to be documented in California. The only Chimney Swifts were single birds over Long Beach 9 Jun (KL), sw. Los Angeles the same day (RBa), and West Los Angeles 17 Jul (DD). Two Vaux's Swifts over Long Beach 1 Jun (KL) and another over Irvine 4 Jun (LDT) were late spring migrants, and an unidentified *Chaetura* was over Goleta 13 Jun (HPR). A *Selasphorus* (probably Allen's) in Escondido 16 Jun (BM) was an exceptionally early fall migrant. More than expected numbers of Acorn Woodpeckers were present on the e. slope of the Sierra Nevada in *Inyo*, with nesting documented at two locations (A&LK), and one at G.H.P. 20 Jul (TEW) and another at Scissors Crossing 17 Jun (JB) were obviously lost.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH CORVIDS

An Olive-sided Flycatcher at G.H.P. 30 Jun (KSG) was an early fall migrant, as was a Western Wood-Pewee there 16 Jul (KSG); one singing on San Clemente I. 1 Jul (BLS) was at a locality where the species is not known to breed. Nine male and 13 female Willow Flycatchers of the endangered subspecies *extimus* fledged 16 young at S.F.K.R.P. (MH). The Least Flycatcher found at S.F.K.R.P. on 30 May was last seen 9 Jun (BB). A Hammond's Flycatcher at G.H.P. 5 Jun (KSG) was the latest spring migrant for *Kern*. Gray Flycatchers at a nest near Ball Flat, n. of Big Pines, *Los Angeles* 27 Jun (JTi) were in an area where breeding has only recently been documented. Up to 3 Pacific-slope Flycatchers in e. *Kern* 29 Jun (TEW) appeared to be very late spring migrants. A nesting pair of Black Phoebes fledged 2 young on San Clemente I. in late Jun (BLS), for the island's first confirmed breeding. Say's Phoebes are increasingly encountered as breeders in the coastal part of the Region, with birds through the period near Burbank (RB), in the Baldwin Hills (A&EB), and in Calabasas (JH), all *Los Angeles*, as well as a breeding pair in Goleta 2-17 Jun (DMC). An Ash-throated Flycatcher through the period in El Centro, *Imperial* (KZK) was in an area where the species is not known to breed; others near S.E.S.S. 28 Jun and 6 Jul (GMcC) were wanderers or early fall migrants. A pair of Brown-crested Flycatchers summered at Scissors Crossing, *San Diego* (JBa), and 9-11 pairs were thought to be breeding in and near S.F.K.R.P. (MW, BB). Eastern Kingbirds were at Baker, *San Bernardino* 9-11 Jun (LWA, HBK), n. of the Santa Maria R. mouth, *San Luis Obispo* 28 Jun (TBC), and on San Clemente I. 20 Jun (JTB). A Cassin's Kingbird at F.C.R. 4 Jun (MSanM) was at an unusual locality.

Loggerhead Shrikes continue to undergo a striking decline as breeders on the coastal slope of the Region, though numbers this year might also have been impacted by the severe and prolonged drought; in *Los Angeles*, shrikes were found at only eight sites in the coastal basins and valleys in May and Jun (KLG).

A White-eyed Vireo was photographed and taped near Lompoc, *Santa Barbara* 13-15 Jun (JTi, JS); this species has proved nearly annual in spring in the Region. A Gray Vireo in w. Phinney Canyon in the Grapevine Mts., *Inyo* 29 Jun (JLD) was the first found in many years in that area. A Yellow-throated Vireo, casual in spring, was in Huntington Beach, *Orange* 7 Jun (LDT). For the 2nd consecutive year, Warbling Vireos nested in an urban res-

idential area in Los Angeles (RB), and one was singing persistently in urban e. Anaheim, *Orange* 25 May—12 Jun (DRW); early fall migrants were at Picacho S.R.A., *Imperial* 9 Jul (P J) and near El Centro 13 Jul (KZK). Single Red-eyed Vireos were at California City and G.H.P. on the late date of 25 Jun (KSG).

A Steller's Jay near Lakeview, *Riverside* 22 Jul (CH) was at an odd locality. Only 2 Purple Martins were found in all of *Los Angeles* through the period, despite focused searches in most appropriate breeding habitat (KLG). Unseasonal Bank Swallows were near Lake View Terrace, *Los Angeles* 22 Jun (KLG) and at Piute Ponds n. of Lancaster, *Los Angeles* 5 Jul (JF). An Oak Titmouse along Oak Creek nw. of Independence 21-22 Jul (A&LK) established the northernmost record for *Inyo*. At least a dozen *aculeata* White-breasted Nuthatches in lowland areas away from breeding sites in *Orange*, *San Diego*, and w. *Riverside* in Jul (LRH, REW, JEP) may portend a fall irruption. A Winter Wren along Pine Cr. nw. of Bishop (J&DP) 17 Jun—4 Jul was the 2nd to summer in *Inyo*.

THRUSHES THROUGH WARBLERS

A Townsend's Solitaire photographed on San Clemente I. 10 Jun (BLS) was in an odd locality for a montane breeding species. Provision of nest-boxes continues to promote the expansion of Western Bluebirds in s. coastal areas; a fresh juv. was on Pt. Loma 12 Jun (REW). One or more singing Swainson's Thrushes were in restored willow bottomland habitat below Imperial Beach, *San Diego* 25 Jun—14 Jul (MS, DH); one along Pine Cr. nw. of Bishop 17 Jun—4 Jul (J&DP) was the 3rd summer record for *Inyo* ("Olive-backed Thrushes," *Catharus swainsoni ustulatus*, breed to the north in *Mono*). A Hermit Thrush on 16 Jun at Villa Park, *Orange* (DEW) was extremely late for the lowlands. An American Robin was slightly out of range at G.H.P. 20 Jul (TEW), and the species nested in Blythe, *Riverside* (RH), where a rare but regular breeder. A Gray Catbird was in Butterbredt Canyon 22 Jun (MW), the 3rd spring record for *Kern*. A fall migrant Bendire's Thrasher was in Blythe 21 Jul (RH). Nesting American Pipits at 3300 m at South Fork Lake, w. of Lone Pine, *Inyo* on 11 Jul (FE) were in an area where breeding had been presumed. Unusual midsummer Cedar Waxwings were at Castaic Junction, *Los Angeles* 20 Jul (JLF) and Blythe through the period (RH).

Two Lucy's Warblers were found in the Imperial Valley, where very rare: an ad. near

Brawley 2 Jun (GMcC) and an imm. near El Centro 3 Jul (GMcC). Late vagrant Northern Parulas stretched well through the season, as usual, with birds in Encino, *Los Angeles* 10 Jun (DK), Santa Barbara 19-23 Jun (MAH), Blythe 23 Jun (RH), the San Bernardino Mts. 26 Jun (DRW), Scissors Crossing 5 Jul (JBa), and Carpinteria, *Santa Barbara* 14 Jul (RWH). A Yellow Warbler at G.H.P. 29 Jun (TEW) was mid-way between e. *Kern*'s latest spring and earliest fall records; 3+ singing males along the concrete-banked Los Angeles R. near Glendale through the period (RB, KLG) were in an urban setting. A late spring Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler was in Newport Beach, *Orange* 8 Jun (JEP), and single Yellow-rumped (Audubon's) Warblers at F.C.R. 29 Jun (JLD) and in Bishop 3 Jul (J&DP) were unseasonal for the lowlands. A Black-throated Gray Warbler near El Centro 29 Jul (KZK) was the earliest fall record for the Salton Sink. Very late Townsend's Warblers were at Jenks L. in the San Bernardino Mts. 7 Jun (CMcG) and on Clark Mt. 8 Jun (HBK). A Hermit Warbler on Santa Rosa Mt., *Riverside* 17 Jun (BM) was at the s. limit of the species's breeding range. Black-and-white Warblers near El Centro 6 Jun (KZK) and Scissors Crossing 23 Jun (JBa) were late spring vagrants, but a singing bird near Corona, *Riverside* 29 Jul (JEP) was thought to have summered nearby, and one near El Monte, *Los Angeles* 29 Jul—1 Aug (AL) was probably an early fall migrant. American Redstarts were in Goleta 15 Jun (GT) and on San Clemente I. 21 Jun (BLS), and 5 others were on the deserts 15 Jun—29 Jul. Late migrant Northern Waterthrushes were at California City and Butterbredt Canyon 15 Jun (JCW). A Kentucky Warbler, casual in spring, was in Santa Barbara 9-10 Jun (RS). A MacGillivray's Warbler in Newport Beach 8 Jun (DRW) was the latest spring record for *Orange* by a week. Hooded Warblers were at Clark Mt. 8-9 Jun (HBK, MCF) and in Goleta 20-21 Jun (RPH).

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES

A Hepatic Tanager at the foot of Clark Mt. 8-24 Jun (HBK, LWA, DNo et al.) was near nesting habitat, and two presumed nesting pairs were at a traditional site along Arrastre Cr. in the San Bernardino Mts. through Jun (HBK, AEK). A playback census yielded 50+ pairs of Summer Tanagers at and near S.F.K.R.P. during the period (TW); this is the species's stronghold in California, but 2-3 pairs nested at Scissors Crossing (JBa) as well as a few other sites. Five additional Summer Tanagers were in the coastal lowlands 8 Jun—1 Jul,

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along with a late migrant at G.H.P. 25 Jun (KSG). A pair of Western Tanagers at Cerro Alto Campground 6 Jul provided the first nesting record for *San Luis Obispo* (AFS, JSR). A Spotted Towhee at G.H.P. 25 Jun (KSG) was well away from the nearest breeding habitat. Dry conditions probably contributed to a breeding attempt by Grasshopper Sparrows in Jun and early Jul on a weedy slope in a cemetery in Hollywood, *Los Angeles* (RB) and to the presence of 2 singing males in a clearing in chaparral at 1050 m above La Cañada, *Los Angeles* (JTo). A (Thick-billed) Fox Sparrow in Jawbone Canyon 2 Jun (TEW) was the latest spring record for the *megarhyncha* group for e. *Kern*. Exceptionally late White-crowned Sparrows were on San Clemente I. 23 Jun (AVB; subspecies undetermined) and at G.H.P. 18 Jun (KSG; *oriantha*); with the latter bird was a late Golden-crowned Sparrow. A juv. Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco in Irvine 23 Jun (RAE) was probably fledged in a local *Eucalyptus* grove.

Rose-breasted Grosbeaks appeared widely in the Region, with 8 along the coast 2 Jun—22 Jul and 7 more in the interior 4-23 Jun. A pair of Black-headed Grosbeaks fledged young at Picacho State Recreation Area, *Imperial* in Jul (PJ); this species was not recorded nesting by Rosenberg et al. (1991. *Birds of the Lower Colorado River Valley*. University of Arizona Press). One near El Centro 3 Jul (KZK) provided the earliest fall record for the Salton Sink. Small numbers of Indigo Buntings, including pairs and territorial males, were found widely in the Region; up to 5 males were at S.F.K.R.P. through the period (BB).

Two male Bobolinks were in Independence 5 Jun (RAH). Casual in mid-summer, a Baltimore Oriole was in Somis, *Ventura* 19-20 Jun (WW). A pair of Scott's Orioles at Pine Valley, *San Diego* 18 Jun (BM) was at the w. edge of the species's range. Up to 5 Cassin's Finches were present through the period in Big Pines, *Inyo*, with a juv. on 8 Aug suggesting possible nesting at this Owens Valley site (T&JH). An male American Goldfinch in Independence 18-21 Jun (RAH, A&LK) was exceptionally late and well s. of typical interior breeding range. Up to 6 Nutmeg Mannikins, a species rapidly naturalizing in the Region, were in San Luis Obispo 26 Jun+ (MDS).

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(JB1), John T. Brollini, Ann and Eric Brooks (A&EB), Bob Chaddock, David Chapple, David M. Compton (*Santa Barbara*), Travis B. Cooper, Don Desjardin, Jon L. Dunn, Tom M. Edell (*San Luis Obispo*), Fred Emerson, Richard A. Erickson, Michael Evens (*San Diego*), Meryl Falkner, Jon Feenstra, Jon L. Fisher, Mary Carmona Freeman, Peter A. Gaede, Kimball L. Garrett (*Los Angeles*), Karen S. Gilbert, John F. Green (*Riverside*), Charity Hagen, Murrelet Halterman, Robert W. Hansen, Jim Hardesty, Loren R. Hays, D. Mitchell Heindel, Tom & Jo Heindel (*Inyo*), Roger Higson, Brad K. Hines, Ron P. Hirst, David Holloway, Mark A. Holmgren, Chris Howard and Rosie Beach (CH & RB), Robert A. Hudson, Paul Jorgensen, Al Kalin, Howard B. King, Andrew & Leah Kirk (A & LK), David Koeppel, Alexander E. Koonce (*San Bernardino*), Kenneth Z. Kurland, Kevin Larson, Andrew Lee, Guy McCaskie (*Imperial*), Todd McGrath, Chet McGaugh, Bob Miller, Kathy C. Molina, Brennan Mulrooney, David Nelson (DNe), Dick Norton (DNo), Robert T. Patton, Jim and Debby Parker (J & DP), James E. Pike, Hugh P. Ranson, Jim S. Royer, Martin Ruane, Matt Sadowski, Mike San Miguel (MSanM), Bill Sauer, Alan F. Schmierer, N. John Schmitt, Brad K. Schram, Tim Searl, Ron Smith, Steve Sosensky (SSo), Susan Steele (SSt), John Sterling, Mike D. Stiles, Brian L. Sullivan, John Thompson (JTo), Jim Tietz (JTt), Guy Tingos, Larry D. Tripp, Richard E. Webster, Walter Wehtje (*Ventura*), Mary Whitfield, Douglas R. Willick (*Orange*), John C. Wilson (*Kern*), Tiffany Woznicki, Thomas E. Wurster. An additional 35+ observers who could not be individually acknowledged submitted reports this season.



Baja California Peninsula



and Clark's Grebes at Presa Rodriguez, on the se. edge of metropolitan Tijuana, 30 Apr and 9 May were in heavy courtship and included a few mixed pairs, with one pair engaged in nest-building (RAE). Small numbers of **Brown Boobies** have been noted around Is. Los Coronados in spring since 2000. This year, up to 6 were noted 6 Apr (*vide* HRC), and the species attempted to nest on Middle Rock of that archipelago. Two pairs were apparently incubating 17–18 May (DW et al.), and one pair was tending a nest containing an addled Western Gull egg 19 Jun (*vide* HRC).

A Least Bittern on the Maneadero Plain 5 Jul (RAE) hints at the possibility that this species nests on the coastal slope. A heronry at Estero El Zacatal near La Paz 25 Jun contained only about 100 nests but a marvelous assortment, including Great Blue, Little Blue, and Tricolored Herons, Snowy and Cattle Egrets, Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, and White Ibis (EA, EP). Parque Revolución, Ensenada hosted 15 Snowy Egret nests and 23 Black-crowned Night-Heron nests, most with large young, 1 Jun (RAH et al.).

Remarkable were two pairs of nesting **Tricolored Herons** in the Mexicali Valley near Ejido Oaxaca 26–31 Jul—the first such record for Baja California—and one pair of nesting **Reddish Egrets** at I. Montague 25 Jul (both ph. EM, JAC). In addition, an ad. Tricolored was noted along the Río Colorado at Vado Carranza 2 Jun (KLG, KCM). Reddish Egrets continue to breed on Is. Todos Santos, with 7 ads. 12 Apr, three nests 21 May, and 4 fledglings 6 Jul (EP, FG et al.). A flock of 36 Wood Storks along a tributary to the Río Hardy in ne. Baja California 30 Jul (ph. EM, JAC) was remarkable. This species has all but disappeared from the Salton Sink, where 40 years ago it occurred as a post-breeding visitor in the thousands and 20 years ago still occurred in the hundreds (Patten et al., 2003, *op. cit.*).

GEESE THROUGH TERNS

Considering the Black-bellied Whistling-Duck's remarkable range expansion in n. Mexico and the s. United States and its ever increasing tendency to wander across the continent, the species remains little-reported on the Baja California Peninsula. As many as 8 have wintered in recent years at Lagunas de Chametla, BCS, but up to 11 there 5–7 Aug (*vide* RC) were probably post-breeding dispersants. The Lesser Canada Goose at Lagunas de Chametla since at least 29 Oct 2001 was still present 7 Aug (*vide* RC). A female Northern Shoveler at Presa Rodriguez 21 Jun (RAE, PU) was late or summering. A female Redhead with

The drought—worst on record in at least the northwestern portion of the Region—continued unabated, clearly impacting the reproductive efforts of many species. Observer coverage was weak except in the northern quarter of the Region; we were especially pleased to receive many significant observations in the Río Colorado region from Osvel Hinojosa-Huerta and co-workers. We took a flexible approach to the reporting period and included a number of other records relevant to the nesting season. Thanks again to guest editor Michael Patten, sitting in this time for the vacationing Robb Hamilton.

LOONS THROUGH STORKS

A Pacific Loon at Cerro Prieto 2 Jun (*vide* OH-H) provided the first record of a spring migrant for the Colorado Desert portion of the peninsula, although it contributed to a pattern in the Salton Sink (of which Cerro Prieto is the s. tip), where the species has occurred over a dozen times between 14 May—22 Jun (Patten et al. 2003. *Birds of the Salton Sea: Status, Biogeography, and Ecology*, Univ. Calif. Press). *Aechmophorus* grebes are not known to breed in nw. Baja California, but up to 55 Western

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Northern Harrier was confirmed as a breeder in northwestern Baja California this season. This bird's nest with three eggs was found at the mouth of the Río San Telmo 21 April 2002, and several other pairs were seen in the vicinity. *Photograph by Enrique D. Zamora-Hernandez.*

5 chicks at Lagunita El Ciprés, BC 8 Aug (RAE) documented nesting there for the 2nd consecutive year.

An active Osprey nest at El Sauzal 20 Apr (MAP) was unexpected, as the species was unknown as a breeder in nw. Baja California; however, the breeding population has swelled in adjacent *San Diego* in recent years (San Diego Bird Atlas, unpubl. data). Breeding of Northern Harrier was confirmed in nw. Baja California when a nest with three eggs was discovered at the mouth of the Río San Telmo 21 Apr (RAE, ph. EDZ-H et al.); several additional pairs were also observed on this part of the peninsula. An ad. Golden Eagle at a nest with one large young along the Río Santo Domingo 31 May (RAH et al.) provided one of the Region's few documented breeding occurrences.

Western Gulls at Presa Rodriguez 21 Jun (PU, RAE) and 9 Aug (RAE) were away from the immediate coast. Astounding was an **Elegant Tern** on a nest at Cerro Prieto 27 Apr (KCM, KLG), although no ads. could be found there 2 Jun. This species had wandered into the Salton Sink from the Gulf of California only about 20 times and had previously been recorded in the Mexicali Valley only once, on 19 May 2001 (Patten et al. 2001. *Monographs in Field Ornithology* 3: 29–63).

CUCKOOS THROUGH FINCHES

Encouraging were single Yellow-billed Cuckoos on the Río Colorado at Ejido Pachuca 6 Jun and w. of Plan de Ayala 15–23 Jun (*fide* OH-H). Except for 2 on the Río Hardy 9 Jul 1995 (Patten et al., 2001, *op. cit.*), we are unaware of any Regional records—on the Río Colorado or in the Cape District—since the 1970s (Wilbur, S. R. 1987. *Birds of Baja California*. University of California

Press). The Pacific-slope Flycatcher has colonized most of lowland *San Diego* since 1940, becoming especially conspicuous in the last 20–25 years (San Diego Bird Atlas, unpubl. data), and should prove to be a lowland breeder in nw. Baja California as well. Nevertheless, 2 apparently unpaired singing males at Parque Morelos, Tijuana 21 Jun (PU, RAE) appear to represent the first breeding season record for the lowlands. At least 19 Vermilion Flycatchers at six locations along the Río Colorado 11 Mar–16 Jun, including at least one successful nesting pair (*fide* OH-H), were more than expected, given the dearth of recent records in ne. Baja California.

With no records in nearly 20 years, Bell's Vireos also made news on the Río Colorado, with single singing males at Presa Morelos 17 Apr (RAE), w. of Plan de Ayala 8 May (*fide* OH-H), and 2 km downstream from Vado Carranza 9 May (*fide* OH-H). On the Pacific slope, Bell's Vireos at Presa Rodriguez, on the Río de las Palmas in La Mesa, at Presa Emilio López Zamora in Ensenada, and at Santo Tomás Winery were at new locations. One at La Grulla, Maneadero Plain 20 Apr (RAH, RAE) was apparently a migrant, and 26 singing males on the Río Santo Domingo 31 May (RAE, RAH, ERL) represented a notable concentration. The number of American Crows in sw. California has increased dramatically, and nw. Baja California is also feeling the pressure. Crows were found this spring and summer along the border from Tecate to Tijuana and on the coast s. to Ensenada and 15 km e. of Ensenada. Nesting in *Eucalyptus* was confirmed at Parque Morelos, Tijuana, where a nest with young was seen 9 May (RAE), and at El Sauzal, where a pair fledged 3 young 30 May–5 Jul (ERL et al.).

A singing Marsh Wren at Presa Rodriguez and 2 on the Río de las Palmas in La Mesa 21 Jun (RAE, PU) were of note; previous summer records on the Pacific slope have been restricted to Lagunita El Ciprés (cf. *N.A.B.* 55: 485). Following exceptional numbers of Hermit Warblers on the coast in Apr and May, a female at Punta Banda 1 Jun (RAE et al.) provided the first Regional Jun record. An even later migrant was the Green-tailed Towhee downstream of San Luis Río Colorado 11 Jun (*fide* OH-H). Three hundred Tricolored Blackbirds at Ojos Negros 16 Mar (MAP) and 200+ on the lower Río San Telmo 20 Apr (RAE, RAH) exceeded previous counts at those locations, but 1000–1200 at a nesting colony at La Misión 1 May (JAC, SG-G) was more than ever reported in the Region. Nesting was also confirmed for the first time at Presa Rodriguez 9 May (10+ ads.; RAE). Not surprisingly, Great-tailed Grackles were also found nesting at new locations in nw. Baja California: Presa Rodriguez 30 Apr–21 Jun (up to 15 ads.; RAE, PU) and Presa El Carrizo 9 May (4 males, 2+ females; RAE). Nesting was confirmed for the 2nd consecutive year on the Maneadero Plain, involving 10+ ads. 22 Apr–5 Jul (RAH et al.). A pair of Lesser Goldfinches on the Río Colorado w. of Plan de Ayala 23 Apr was followed by a female with a brood patch banded 2 Jun (*fide* OH-H), confirming nesting in northeastern Baja California (cf. Patten et al., 2001, *op. cit.*).

EXOTIC SPECIES

An exotic "big day" in Tijuana 21 Jun included free-flying Black-throated Magpie-Jay, Purplish-backed Jay, White-collared Seedeater, and female Painted Bunting (RAE, PU). Two more magpie-jays were south of Ensenada in early Jun (ph. TW), and another seedeater was captured at Lagunas de Chametla 5 Aug (ph. RC).

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Mexico

Northern Mexico

Abbreviations: B.V.C. (Bosque Venustiano Carranza, Torreón, Coah.), E.C.B.S. (E.C.B.S.).

A juv. **Brown Pelican** was seen inland at Presa Peñitas, Chih., ca. 15 km n. of Madera, 9 Jul (KTM, JCN, RVP); this record coincides with an unprecedented influx of Brown Pelicans into neighboring Arizona, with an outlier as far n. as Colorado, USA. A female Wood Duck with 8 downy young was seen on Río Nazas 6 Jun (FVP, FG, JN), Several ads. and a group of one female and 7 ducklings were seen in different parts of the Nazas R. 9 Jul (FVP). This is the 5th year in a row that confirmed breeding by this species has been observed here. One ad. American Wigeon was seen in La Isla on the Nazas R. 14 Jul, a very early record for this species and probably indicative of oversummering or possibly a failed breeder migrating early (WB, FG, FVP). One ad. Gray Hawk was seen 9 Jul along the Nazas R. very near the tree that has produced four other sightings of ads. and juvs. in the two previous summers (FVP). Two Peregrine Falcons were seen in late Jul in the city of Torreón, both using the Canal 9 TV antenna as a perch and one visiting a recess in a limestone cliff in Cerro de Las Noas, in Torreón city (FVP). These are the first summer sightings of this species in Torreón, good news, given that the Torreón area held the world record in use of DDT in the 1950s and 1960s (1% of the DDT being used in the world)—and there was still evidence of DDT in dairy and human milk in the 1970s (*vide* FVP). Painted Bunting sightings continue to be very common this year. One male and one female were seen in desert brush near Jimulco, s. of Torreón (WB, FVP). A singing male was seen in La Isla on the Nazas R. 14 Jul (FVP), and another was recorded at Barreal de Guadalupe in desert brush s. of Torreón 28 Jul (WB, FVP). An ad. female and a juv. Dickcissel were seen 28 Jul in Barreal de Guadalupe (WB, FVP).

Contributors (area compilers in boldface): William Beatty, Javier Cruz-Nieto, Felipe Gaetán, Karen T. Mabb, Jorge Necedal, René Valdés Peña, Francisco Valdéz Perezgasga.

Central Mexico

Abbreviations: P.E.C.M. (Parque Ecológico de la Ciudad de México, D.F.), U.N.A.M. (Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México).

Two Long-tailed Wood-Partidges were seen in

the P.E.C.M. 3 Jul (SA). A Cooper's Hawk vocalized for a long time in oak forest in the P.E.C.M. 23 Jun, where a nest with 2 chicks was found 4 Jul (SA). One of the juvs. was seen again 23 Jul, still using the nest (SA). Green Violet-ears seemed absent in the P.E.C.M. until 20 Jul, when one was seen, and on 21 Jul, 3 were heard in territorial song (SA). A Violet-crowned Hummingbird was reported from the U.N.A.M. botanical garden 19 Jun (*vide* SA). Blue-throated Hummingbirds in D.F. were noted in Parque Ecoguardas 2 Jun and Parque Tepozán 16 Jun and in scrub in the P.E.C.M. 29 Jun, and the species was heard in Parque Tepozán in the 2nd half of Jul (SA). Single Magnificent Hummingbirds were in P.E.C.M., Parque Tepozán, Parque Ecoguardas through Jul (SA). A singing Warbling Vireo was in the P.E.C.M. 16 Jul (SA). A singing male Northern Cardinal was at the U.N.A.M. botanical garden through Jul (SA). One to 2 Scott's Orioles continue to be recorded throughout the period in P.E.C.M. scrub, the U.N.A.M. botanical garden, and Parque Ecoguardas (SA).

Contributors (area compiler in boldface): Sofia Arenas, Héctor Gómez de Silva.

Southern Mexico

Localities are in the state of Oax. unless otherwise stated.

Abbreviations: Tla. (Tlacolula town), T.S.D. (Tlacolula sewage discharge area, 1600 m elev.), R.S. (Río Salado at Tlacolula), S.P.T. (seasonal pond, Teotitlán del Valle, 1649 m elev.), S.J.G. (San Juan Guelavía, town about 20 km e. of Oaxaca City, 1550 m elev., and area around bridge on road into town).

CORMORANTS THROUGH ORIOLES

A Neotropic Cormorant was at S.P.T. 5&7 Jul (RAN). More than 50 American White Pelicans were photographed near Tututepec 19 Jul (MJ, *vide* MG). The first Jun record of Cattle Egret for cen. Oax. was one in Tequio Park 8 Jun (MG et al.). A Green Heron was at R.S. 2 Jun (RAR). A juv. Great Blue Heron was studied 26 Jul at S.J.G. (MG, RAR). Five Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks were at T.S.D. 9 Jul, and 2 were there from 10-27 Jul (RAR). An ad. **Cooper's Hawk** molting primaries was seen soaring above the town of Calpulapan de Méndez 20 Jul (MG). A Harris's Hawk was at T.S.D. 10-30 Jul (RAR), and 3 were at S.J.G. 26 Jul (RAR, MG). One to 2 **Ornate Hawk-Eagles** were seen in pine-oak and cloud forest near Calpulapan de Méndez on four occasions in Jun and Jul, with what seemed

like an aerial display observed in Jul (MG). A **Barred Forest-Falcon** and a **Collared Forest-Falcon** were seen in pine-oak forest near Calpulapan de Méndez 16 Jun around 2250 m elev. and 4 Jul at 2300 m elev. (MG). Both are above their "normal" elevation, though Barred Forest-Falcon has been seen at a similar elevation on El Triunfo, Chis. (Gómez de Silva et al. 1999) and at La Cumbre, above El Estudiante, Oax. (C. D. Benesh et al.).

Two Killdeer were at T.S.D. 9-31 Jul (RAR, MG). Sandpipers at T.S.D. were 5 Lesser Yellowlegs 14 Jul 14 (RAR), 3-6 Spotted Sandpipers 27-31 Jul (MG, RAR), 2-3 Solitary Sandpiper 27 & 30 Jul (MG, RAR), and a Least Sandpiper 30-31 Jul (RAR). A Common Moorhen was at R.S. 2 Jun, and 1-5 were at T.S.D. from 9-31 Jul (RAR). An American Coot was at S.P.T. 16 Jun (RAN).

Ten Lesser Nighthawks were at S.P.T. 24 Jul (RAR, RAN), and one was at Tla. 26 Jul (RAR, MG); these are common year-round residents in the area. A **Berylline Hummingbird** was mistnetted in pine-oak near Calpulapan de Méndez at 2250 m elev., rather high (MG). A **Violet-crowned Hummingbird** was hovering around prickly-pear fruits in the town of Calpulapan de Méndez at 2200m. A Strong-billed Woodcreeper, a scarce and erratic species in the country, was in a flock with Steller's Jays in pine-oak near Calpulapan de Méndez (MG). A Greenish Elaenia was seen at 2200 m elev. in second-growth near Calpulapan de Méndez (MG). A single Barn Swallow was seen at Ococtán, Oax. (45 km w. of Oaxaca City) 1 Jun (MDC).

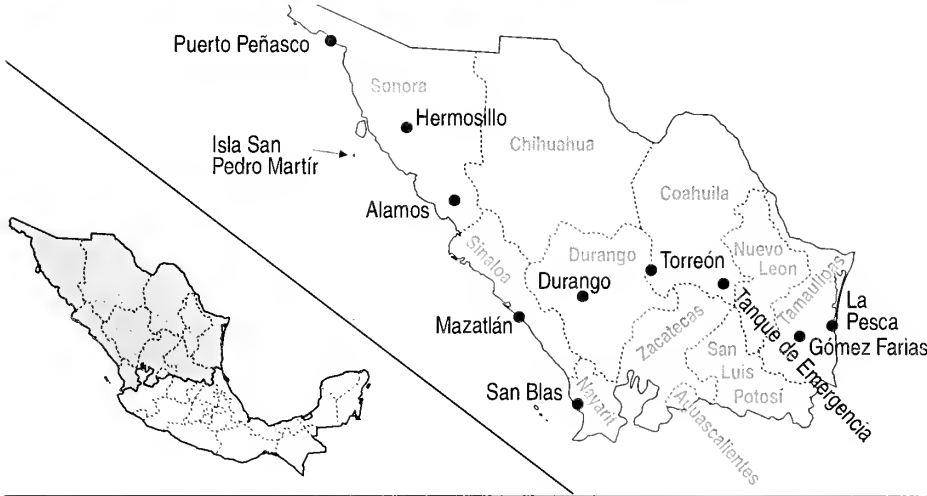
Two pairs of **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** were in scrub near Calpulapan de Méndez (MG). A Blue Seedeater was singing at Sumidero, Chis. 20 Jun, just after the turn-off to the gravel pit, and another was near km post 21 on 24 Jun (MDC). A tail-less Melodious Blackbird, perhaps an escapee, was seen at Tequio Park 8 Jun (MG et al.). An Orchard Oriole was seen at T.S.D. 15 Jul (RAR).

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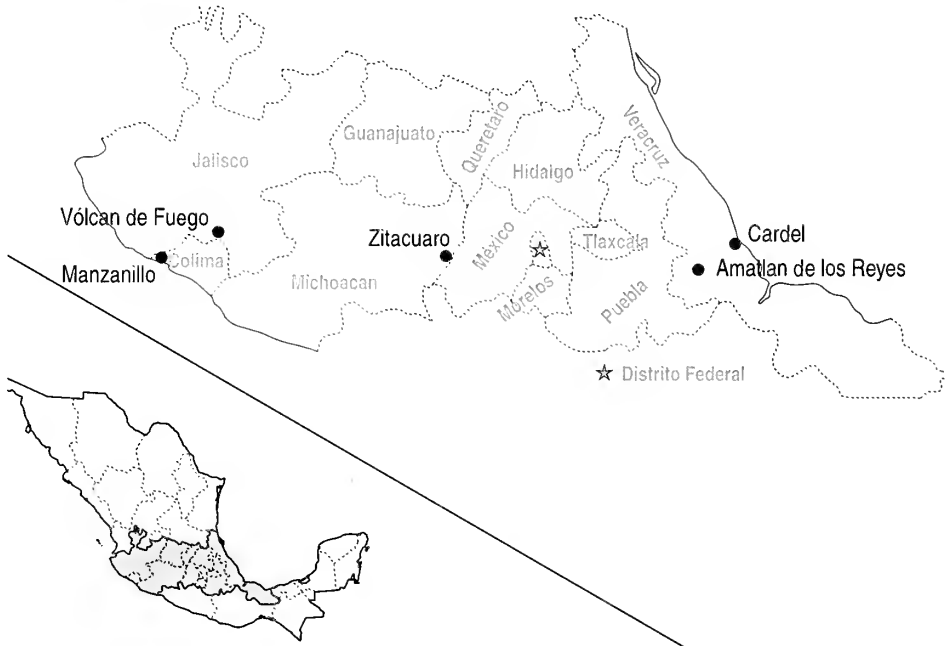
Gómez de Silva, H., F. González-García, and M. P. Casillas-Trejo. 1999. Birds of the upper cloud forest of El Triunfo, Chiapas, Mexico. *Ornitología Neotropical* 10: 1-26.

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NORTHERN MEXICO



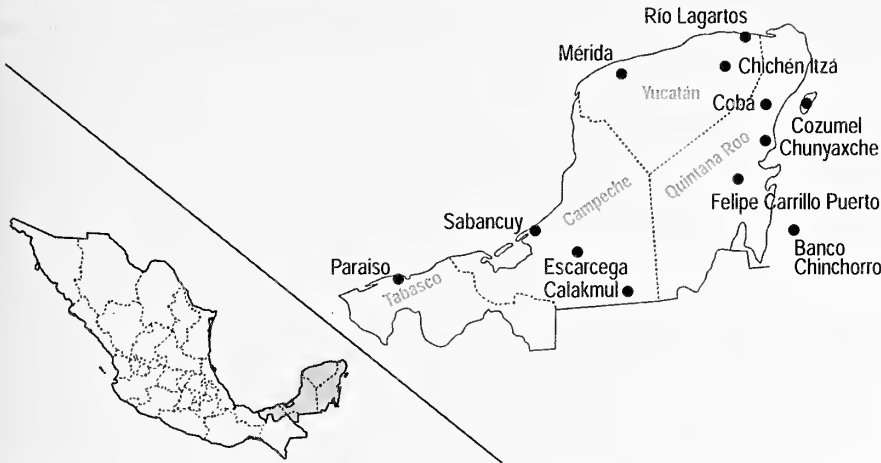
CENTRAL MEXICO



SOUTHERN MEXICO



YUCATAN PENINSULA



Abbreviation: R.L.B.R. (Ría Lagartos Biosphere Reserve), Y.P. (Yucatan Peninsula).

BOOBIES THROUGH TERNS

Brown Boobies are not common in Celestún, but 4 juvs. were observed during the spring and evidently at least one has stayed for the summer, reported 30 Jul (DB). As mentioned in the spring report, juvs. of this species, which nests on Alacrán Reef, are often found at coastal sites around the peninsula. Three Ospreys with apparently darker head markings and bodies than the local subspecies were observed 29 Jul in the Celestún estuary (AD), providing a rather early report of northern migrants.

Ken Meyer and Gina Zimmerman of Avian Research and Conservation Institute, Gainesville, Florida, are presently in Quitana Roo satellite-tracking migrating Swallow-tailed Kites en route to South America. One individual flew from n. to s. Florida, USA 17 Jul before crossing over Cuba and arriving 45 km n. of Chetumal 20 Jul. A single individual (not one of the VHS tagged birds) was seen flying over the forest w. of Cancún 28 Jul. A Zone-tailed Hawk was observed at Celestún 25 Jun (DB) and again over the Celestún estuary 29 Jul (AD). This seems to indicate that individuals of this species do oversummer on the peninsula.

A Purple Gallinule was reported in a roadside pond near Celestún 30 Jul (DB). This is only the 2nd report of this species in this area but was assumed to be a member of the Y.P.'s resident population rather than a migrant. Fifteen Black-bellied Plovers in alternate plumage were reported in the R.L.B.R. between Las Coloradas and El Cuyo on the ne. coast of Yuc. (MT), and another, also in breeding plumage, was seen in Celestún 17 Jul (DB). A total of 14 Semipalmated Plovers was observed in Celestún 4 Jul (DB), suggesting non-breeding individuals spending the summer in the tropics. Nine individuals were seen in the same

area 29 Jul 2001 (BM, DB). Two Killdeer observed inland in the Celestún Biosphere Reserve 30 Jul (DB) were probably from the small population of this species known to breed on the peninsula. A single American Avocet observed 16 Jun at Las Coloradas in the R.L.B.R. (MT) could have been a late migrant or a summering bird. Both species of yellowlegs are suspected of oversummering in the Y.P., and observations made this year appear to confirm the supposition. Four Greater Yellowlegs with 4 Lesser Yellowlegs were at Celestún 28 Jun (DB), and a single Greater Yellowlegs was seen at Progreso 7 Jul feeding with Black-necked Stilts (BM). A single Spotted Sandpiper at Celestún on the odd date of 7 Jun (DB) creates doubt as to whether individuals of this species oversummer or merely have a short reproductive season. They have been reported only as early as 25 Jun on the n. Q. Roo coast (BM). Ten Willets were reported at Celestún 7 Jun (DB), and 6 were still present at the salt flats there 25 Jun (DB). Four of this species (2 in breeding plumage) were again seen there 17 Jul (DB). A single Marbled Godwit was observed in the salt flats at Celestún 18 Jun, and 4 were present in area 25 Jun. (DB). Five more were seen in the area 7 Jul (DB). A single Ruddy Turnstone was feeding on the mudflats at Celestún 18 Jun (DB). This species is known to commonly spend the summer in the Region, as elsewhere in the tropics. The sighting of 14 Western Sandpipers in Celestún 28 Jun (DB) is an extraordinarily late date for this species and probably refer to non-breeders or failed breeders returning very early. At the same location and date were 4 unseasonal Pectoral Sandpipers feeding among stumps of dead mangrove (DB). A Short-billed Dowitcher was reported at Celestún 7 Jun and 4 Jul (DB).

Four Franklin's Gulls in first summer-plumage were noted on a mudflat at Celestún 18-28 Jun (DB). One Caspian Tern was report-

ed at Celestún 7 & 25 Jun, and 4 were seen 2 Jul (DB). Six Common Terns were at Celestún 7 Jun, and 4 in first-summer plumage were resting on the mudflats in Celestún 25 Jun, with one here 2 Jul (DB).

CUCKOOS THROUGH VIREOS

A Yellow-billed Cuckoo was observed in the coastal dune vegetation of Celestún 4 Jul (DB), while another was found on its nest approximately four m high in vegetation along the Chunchucmil road behind Celestún 17 Jul. This species is predominately a transient through the peninsula, but there is a small population that is locally resident. A male Ruby-throated Hummingbird at Celestún 28 Jun (DB) appears to be an unusually late date for this species. Belted Kingfisher is another species that seems to be around almost all year. A single individual was observed 29 Jul at Celestún (AD), the same early date and locality as a year ago. Two male and 3 female Purple Martins were seen on utility wires at Celestún 25 Jun, and more than 100 were in same area 4 & 23 Jul (DB). Hundreds of swallows, including Purple Martin and Barn and Bank Swallows (no precise numbers given) were observed in the same area 28 Jul (AD), and martins were still passing over the reserve inland 30 Jul (DB). A Barn Swallow was observed in Celestún 2 Jul, and ca. 100 were observed there with Purple Martins flying s. 23 Jul (DB). In the past, about 100 martins were seen by BM and Arturo López Ornat in Chetumal, Q. Roo 3 Jul 1986. Purple Martin is one of our earliest migrants from the north, but at this point, it is not clear precisely what the "late date" should be for late migrants traveling north and the "early date" should be for early arrivals on their way back south; nevertheless, the cluster of records beginning to accrue from late Jun through early Jul suggests that these birds are all recently-arrived migrants, beginning probably with failed breeders or non-breeders. A pair of Yellow-green Vireos was found nesting at Celestún 4 Jul (DB), a normal date and location for this species.

Corrigenda

From the spring report (*N. A. B.* 56: 362-369), please credit the report of Mexican Whip-poor-will (p. 263) to JCA. Finca Prusia, Villa Flores, and Limonar are all in Chiapas (p. 365). El Cielo Biological Station (p. 362) is located in Tamaulipas.

Contributors (area compiler in boldface): David Bacab, Alex Dzib, **Barbara MacKinnon**, Melgar Tabasco. Uncredited observations are by Barbara MacKinnon.



Central America



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A team of investigators from University of Kansas Natural History Museum and University of El Salvador School of Biology, led by Oliver Komar, embarked on the first ornithological expedition to isolated San Vicente Volcano from 18 June to 4 July. The volcano is a massive 2000-m peak that rises out of the central coastal plain of El Salvador. The researchers found a fairly extensive cloud forest with a surprising number of cloud forest specialist species and other highland species. These isolated populations are separated from neighboring populations by 45-75 km. Cloud forest species recorded included White-faced Quail-Dove, Green-throated Mountain-gem, Spot-crowned Woodcreeper, Mountain Elaenia, Yellowish Flycatcher, Rufous-browed Wren, Ruddy-capped Nightingale-Thrush, Black Robin, White-throated Robin, and Chestnut-capped Brush-Finch. Populations of other highland species recorded on the volcano's slopes included Singing Quail, Rufous Sabrewing, Magnificent Hummingbird, Emerald Toucanet, Paltry Tyrannulet, Long-tailed Manakin, Bushy-crested Jay, Brown-backed Solitaire, Blue-and-white Mockingbird, Crescent-chested Warbler, Flame-colored and White-winged Tanagers, Red-legged Honeycreeper, Yellow-faced Grassquit, Cinnamon-bellied Flowerpiercer, White-

naped (Yellow-throated) Brush-Finch, Prevost's and White-eared Ground-Sparrows, and Bar-winged Oriole. The conservation implications of these findings are significant, as many of these species have very limited populations in El Salvador, and some are endemic to the highlands of Central America. Some of these populations may represent undescribed species.

To the north, Corozal District, the last frontier of Belizean ornithological exploration, is finally receiving its due. Jacques Laesser, who is employed by International Tropical Conservation Foundation, is being funded in part to inventory the birds of the vast, largely unspoiled forests of eastern Corozal. Already, he has made a significant contribution to our knowledge of bird distribution in this northern outpost. Another significant contribution to Belizean ornithology was Luz Hunter's discovery this summer of a previously unknown tern nesting colony on a small caye southeast of Dangriga.

Abbreviation: K.U.N.H.M. (University of Kansas Natural History Museum).

HERONS THROUGH FALCONS

Least Bitterns have been reported periodically from the vicinity of Flores, Lago Petén Itzá, but MM has confirmed that they are present year-round. One found 1 Sep 2001 and present continuously since then supports existing evidence that the species is a permanent resident in the area. Agami Herons continue to make news in Belize. The nesting colony discovered last year near the mouth of the Moho R., Toledo continues to flourish. On 28 Jul, WRM

and LZ counted 82 active nests, most with two eggs, a few with one. Two ad. King Vultures at La Montañona, Chalatenango, El Salvador (OK), may have been the same pair seen there the previous Jul. At least 6 Fulvous Whistling-Ducks, an extremely rare species in Panama, were in Las Macañas Marsh, Herrera 28 Jul (DM). They were first seen in this area two years ago. The first southbound Swallow-tailed Kites, a group of 3, were recorded in Freshwater Creek Forest Reserve, Corozal District, Belize 24 Jun (JL et al.). A pair of White-breasted (Sharp-shinned) Hawks at La Montañona 11-16 Jul (ph. OK) represents the first breeding-season record for Chalatenango. At the same place where a juv. was photographed last year, 2 ad. Zone-tailed Hawks were observed 13 Jul (OK) at Cerro La Montañona, Chalatenango. A Black-and-white Hawk-Eagle in Shipstern Nature Reserve 30 Jul (JL) was the first ever recorded in Corozal District, and an Ornate Hawk-Eagle seen on a nest near Chacan Chac Mol 26 Jul (JBo, VP, YC) also was a first for Corozal. A Peregrine Falcon hunting grackles over a field on the outskirts of Quetzaltenango 4 Jun and it or another seen perched on a crag at Volcano Candelaria 1.5 km from Quetzaltenango 31 Jul (both JB) were unseasonal and likely indicative of breeding nearby. The species is not known to nest in Guatemala.

QUAIL THROUGH TERNS

A nest of Buffy-crowned Wood-Partridge on San Vicente Volcano (OK et al.) represents the first El Salvador nest record. Details of the nest, previously undescribed for science, will appear elsewhere. Several Ruddy Crakes heard calling from a boggy pond at La Montañona 11-16 Jul (OK) represent the first records for Chalatenango. Thanks in part to J&DB, who monitor the birds on Caye Caulker almost daily, an accurate record of the fall arrival of shorebirds in Belize is emerging. They found the first southbound Semipalmated Plovers, Willets, Whimbrels, and Ruddy Turnstones on 3 Jul, and the first Short-billed Dowitchers on 8 Jul. A trip to Chomes, Costa Rica by EA and RD 5 Jul produced unexpectedly early fall arrival dates for Surf-bird (5) and Red Knot (2). Or were these birds overwintering? Ten Sanderlings at the Río Tarcoles estuary, Costa Rica 26 Jun (JP), and 6 Wilson's Phalaropes first seen at Chomes 20 Jun (AK), were likely to be overwintering birds.

Tern nesting colonies are rapidly becoming a thing of the past in Belize as the cayes are being systematically developed for high-impact human uses. Even the tiniest cayes are regularly used as fishing camps. So, the discovery in

Jul of a significant tern colony on Tobacco Caye (fortunately part of a marine reserve) is encouraging news. The colony was discovered by LH on 16 Jul and investigated by PB, EB, LH, and TR on 26 Jul, with the following results: Sandwich Tern, 50+ with large chicks and fledglings; Roseate Tern, 200+ with chicks; Least Tern, 20+ with large chicks; Bridled Tern, 12 ads.; Brown Noddy, 10 ads. The latter two were behaving as if they had nests, but breeding was not confirmed. The noddies are especially significant, since it was feared that this species might no longer nest in Belize. LH reported seeing a few Sooty Terns with chicks (all dark) on her first visit, but this was not confirmed on the next visit. There is only one known remaining colony of Sooty Terns in Belize.

DOVES THROUGH FLYCATCHERS

White-winged Doves continue their rapid expansion southward in Belize. JU reported an "explosion" in the population around Orange Walk Town this Jun, which is near the s. limit of its Belize breeding range. Whereas in the past he had estimated only about 10 pairs in summer, this year the birds were present in flocks, some with as many as 40 individuals. This species was unrecorded in Belize prior to 1967. The Yellow-naped Parrot is becoming increasingly scarce in Guatemala, as elsewhere, so 2 found at El Palmar Viejo 25 Jul (JB) are worth reporting. The presence of dozens of Lesser Nighthawks all summer in Corozal District (JL) strongly suggests the presence of a breeding population in n. Belize. There are a few scattered breeding records for this species in Belize, but no established breeding population has been documented. A White-tailed Emerald at Kiri Lodge near Tapanti 19 Jun (AW) may be the first reported on the Caribbean slope of Costa Rica. A Belted Kingfisher on Caye Caulker 15 Jul (J&DB) was an early fall migrant.

The first Strong-billed Woodcreepers reported in Chalatenango since 1927 were found at La Montaña 14-16 Jul (OK), where at least 8 could be heard calling frequently throughout the forested area. Two Streak-headed Woodcreepers at La Montaña 15 Jul (OK, LR) were the first ever recorded in Chalatenango. An ad. female (*K.U.N.H.M.) had a receding brood patch and active ovaries. A Barred Antshrike on Ambergris Caye, Belize 4 Jun (LJ, GH) was apparently the first ever reported on this "caye" (actually a long, narrow peninsula). An Ochraceous Pewee was observed on the Las Nubes Trail in La Amistad International Park, Chiriquí, Panama on 4 Jul (DM, DeM). This species, a Costa Rican near-

endemic, is rarely seen across the border in Panama. The first southbound Western Wood-pewee in Costa Rica was observed 30 Jul (JRZ), and the first southbound Brown-crested Flycatcher was on Caye Caulker 8 Jul (J&DB). All but a few individuals of this species vacate Belize after the nesting season.

VIREOS THROUGH FINCHES

A Brown-capped Vireo was observed 19 Jul (JB) at Santa María de Jesus, Quetzaltenango, where they are relatively rare. The species was not discovered in this part of Guatemala until Jun 1999 (AB). Black Catbirds are common on Ambergris Caye and nearby Caye Caulker, but *white* Black Catbirds are not. About 10-15 years ago, partially leucistic birds with varying amounts of white in their plumage began turning up in the Ambergris population. This summer, an all-white bird and a nearly all white sibling were fledged at Caribbean Villas in late May (SL) and seen regularly thereafter (LJ et al.). Also this summer, the first Black Catbirds with white in their plumage were seen on nearby Caye Caulker (J&DB). Thus far, no leucistic catbirds have turned up in the mainland population.

A Black-and-white Warbler near Santa María de Jesus, Guatemala 25 Jul (JB) was early. A Rose-throated Tanager at Beaver Dam Creek, Cayo in Jul (EB) was slightly s. of the previously known s. limit of its range in Belize. Nesting of **Savannah Sparrow** in Guatemala was confirmed when JB found a nest and observed at least 5 birds 4 km n. of San Francisco El Alto, Totonicapán on 10 Jun. These birds were seen again 18 & 23 Jul. A male Blue Grosbeak at La Montaña 17 Jul (OK, LR) was the first ever recorded in Chalatenango. The Bar-winged Oriole was first reported in Chalatenango last summer and was found again at La Montaña this summer (OK, LR). Last year, only males were reported. This year, females were also found; however, one collected 12 Jul (*K.U.N.H.M.) was not in breeding condition. An active Yellow-backed Oriole nest with young at La Montaña 16 Jul (ph. OK) confirmed previous suspicions that this species breeds in El Salvador. The first southbound Orchard Oriole in Costa Rica was found 25 Jul (JRZ); however, a male Baltimore Oriole on Ambergris Caye 4 Jun (LJ, GH) was totally out of season. A **Red Crossbill** seen at La Montaña 16 Jul (OK) represents the 2nd sight record for Chalatenango and El Salvador. A pair of mating Pine Siskins was observed on the grounds of San Carlos Univ., Quetzaltenango 22 Jul (JB), where the species is at the s. limit of its range.

CORRIGENDA

Two Chestnut-headed Oropendolas mentioned in the Winter Season report were considered to be unexpected on the Pacific slope of Guatemala where the species is unrecorded. However, the Mario Dario Biotopo del Quetzal Reserve where they were seen is on the Atlantic slope, where the species is frequently seen.

Cited observers (country coordinators in boldface): Eduardo Amengual, **George Angehr** (Panama), Philip Balderamos, Andrea Berry, **Jason Berry** (Guatemala), Jim and Dorothy Beveridge, Julien Bottinelli (JB), Erneldo Bustamante, Yohan Charbonnier, Robert Dean, **Lee Jones** (Belize), Gerry Haigh, Luz Hunter, Allan Kimberley, **Oliver Komar** (El Salvador), Jacques Laesser, Susan Lala, Darien Montañez, Delicia Montañez (DeM), Marvin Morales, Vincent Palomares, Jim Peterson, Tony Rath, Lorena Rosales, Wilfred Requena-Mutrie, Andy Walker, Len Zeoli, **James R. Zook** (Costa Rica).



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The summer period through the West Indies was without incident regarding tropical storms and hurricanes. The report from Hispaniola (JRC) indicated that the lowlands were suffering from continued drought conditions. Trou Caiman, a large shallow lake near Port-au-Prince, Haiti, was the lowest JRC had seen in his several years' experience there. Newly exposed mudflats there attracted early shorebird migrants, a

benefit to birders in an otherwise ravaged countryside. Dry conditions in the Bahamas fueled wildfires near Rand Nature Center, Grand Bahama, and may have concentrated nesting of certain species within the protected reserve. Drought at Great Inagua caused nest abandonment by thousands of flamingos.

Seabird surveys were conducted in many areas of the Bahamas this year. Exceptional in an otherwise quiet season in the Bahamas was the rediscovery of West Indian Woodpeckers nesting at Grand Bahama. More details are to be published elsewhere.

It is with great sadness that we report the tragic loss of Jamaican ornithologist Robert Sutton, co-author of *Birds of Jamaica* (1999), who was killed at his home in Mandeville in July. Thousands upon thousands of people, birders and otherwise, were touched by Robert's quiet passion for birds and his constant willingness to share his great knowledge with others, both fellow Jamaicans as well as naturalists from all corners of the world. With sadness, too, we report the passing in January 2002 of the eminent Dutch ornithologist, K. H. Voous, author of *Birds of the*

Netherlands Antilles (1983) and many other scholarly texts on birds of the Region.

GREBE THROUGH TERNS

At Bermuda, Pied-billed Grebes pairs bred at Somerset Long Bay and Pitman's Pond, while another overwintered at Spittal Pond, with another seen at Paget Marsh 12 Jul (AD).

Audubon's Shearwaters were noted at several locations throughout the n. Bahamas, including 100 at Exuma Sound 1 Jun (NM); over 100 pairs nesting on Channel Cay, Exumas 1 Jun (WM); and 25 individuals off James Point, Eleuthera 2 Jun (NM). Again this summer, iguana researchers found scores of dead Audubon's Shearwaters on Allen's Cay, and it is thought that Barn Owls have been preying upon the birds here (JI).

A Least Bittern at Spittal Pond, Bermuda 18 Jul (AD) provided a rare seasonal record. **Green Heron** nesting has been suspected at Bermuda in previous years and particularly earlier in 2002, when 4 ads. were noted; thus 30 Jul proved a red-letter day, when 4 ads. with 3 juvs. were seen at Mangrove L. (DBW), a first breeding record for the archipelago.

The presence of a pair of White Ibis with 2

juvs. at Fresh Cr., Andros in Jun (CC) strongly suggests this species in nesting in the Bahamas. At Trou Caiman, Haïti, JRC noted 13 Glossy Ibis and up to 500 Greater Flamingo 27 Jul. The colony on Great Inagua contained 1500-2000 nests, which were abandoned in Jun because wet mud for nest-building and repair was no longer available (HN, *vide* LG). On the Dutch side of St. Maarten, HF noted a dozen Ruddy Ducks at Fresh Pond, w. of Great Salt Pond, Philipsburg 14-26 Jul. Ruddy Duck seem to be expanding in the Region or making a comeback over the last decade, for this is the first report from this location (Voous 1983). White-cheeked Pintails numbered 32 at this pond as well (HF). A long-staying yet elusive Red-tailed Hawk was seen again 19 Jun (PW) on Paget I., Bermuda.

A Piping Plover 27 Jul at Brown's Point, New Providence was considered early (CW) in the mid-Bahamas. A flock of 7 Willets was off Shelly Bay, Bermuda 26 Jul (JM), while a pair 21 Jul at Orient Beach, St. Maarten could be resident breeders (HF). An outstanding find at Darrell's I., Bermuda was a **Eurasian Whimbrel** on 10 Jun (SR, DBW), the first in about 10 years. This form was coincidentally also seen this spring in North Carolina, New Jersey, Massachusetts, and Nova Scotia. On 27 Jul, JRC noted 3 Greater and 2 Lesser Yellowlegs as well as a mixed flock of 140+ Least, Semipalmated, and probable Western Sandpipers at the mudflats of Trou Caiman, Haïti. A single Red Knot was noted in the company of a Black-bellied Plover on Nonsuch I., Bermuda on 8 Jun (JM).

On 12 Jun, JK and PK counted gull and tern nests at Petit Cays, near Great Harbour Cay, Berry Is., Bahamas; their surveys turned up 400 Laughing Gull nests, as well 15 Roseate Tern, 6 Least Tern, 48 Bridled Tern, and 6 Brown Noddy nests. On 2 Jun at Tilloo Cay and Pelican Cays N.P., Abaco, Bahamas, RP counted and confirmed nesting of 20 Least, 10 Roseate, and 24 Sooty Terns. On a small cay off Little Whale Cay, Berry Is., PD reported a colony of 150 Roseate Terns 22 Jun. Six pairs of Least Terns raised 7 chicks on a gravel roof of a condominium at Lucaya Beach, Grand Bahama Is. (EMG). At Bermuda, a Gull-billed Tern was seen in St. George's Harbour (EA) 17 Jun, while a Royal Tern was noted off Elbow Beach on 2 Jun (AD), seen in various locations until at least 22 Jun. A Sandwich Tern was seen at Spanish Pt., Bermuda 20 Jun (PW), with perhaps the same bird at Dockyard 20 Jul (DBW). On Rose Is., off New Providence, Bahamas, NM counted 23 Sandwich Terns 27 Jul.

SA West Nile Virus has been sweeping across the continental United States this year, but there appear to be no published or confirmed reports of the arbovirus from Mexico or the West Indies at the time of press. The spread of the virus to the Western Hemisphere—initially in the New York City area in 1999 by ornithophilic mosquitoes—has been reported by Rappole et al. (2000) as the result of Old World migratory bird species, possibly those engaged in trans-Atlantic transit, whether assisted by ship, storm, or other means. (A fascinating paper by Enno B. Ebels, "Transatlantic vagrancy of Palearctic species to the Caribbean region," appears in the latest *Dutch Birding* 24: 202-209.) Rappole et al. (<www.cdc.gov/ncidod/eid/vol6no4/rappole.htm>) warn of the potential that Neotropical migrant birds, and other migrants, may cause the spread of the virus to the tropics.

Although corvids, generally intra-continental migrants, seem to be the primary vector, or amplifying host, for this virus in North America, several trans-Gulf and oceanic migrants have tested positive for this encephalitis-type disease. There has been one recent report of West Nile Virus in a bird from the Yucatan Peninsula this year (DW, pers. comm.). If Old World migrants, probably large-mass species such as gulls, terns, and shorebirds, can survive long enough to transfer the virus to birds in the New World, it seems possible that birds infected in Florida would survive long enough to bring the virus to insular, host-amplifying populations of the West Indies through the Bahamas and Cuba. Indeed, from what we know of records of Palearctic birds in the West Indies, particularly in the Lesser Antilles, it is not unlikely that the virus is already be present in birds feeding or roosting in wetlands and human-settled lowlands. If this scenario is manifested, then endemic corvids (and surely other species) may be further threatened with a force of extirpation and extinction for which we have little or no means of protection in the wild.

NIGHTJARS THROUGH FINCHES

At Rand Nature Centre, Grand Bahama, an ad. and a just-fledged Chuck-will's-widow were noted 13-14 Jun (MA). It was speculated that nearby forest fires forced this ground-nester into protected areas of and near the park. Another Chuck-will's-widow was heard calling on 26 Jun (CW) at Coral Harbour N.P., which

may indicate nesting there well s. of the Grand Bahama breeding site.

A remarkable observation of 2 **Barn Owls** at Marigot, French St. Martin (HF) on 21 Jul and another at Grand Case on 26 Jul provides strong evidence the species is resident on the island. This raises the question, however, from which Caribbean population did they emigrate? Dominica (to the south) would seem the most likely source, yet the distance involved would be nearly the same as from another potential source, Hispaniola to the west. Eight Antillean Nighthawks were noted at Tilloo and Pelican Cays N.P., Abaco, Bahamas 2 Jun (RP). Ron Pagliaro observed an early Belted Kingfisher on Angel Cays, off Abaco, Bahamas 25 Jul.

The discovery on 4 Jun of **West Indian Woodpeckers** breeding at Grand Bahama is indeed exciting news (IL). It means that a very small population, possibly only a few pairs, of an endemic subspecies (*M. s. nyanus* or *bahamensis*) has persisted over the past 20 years—or that there has been a recolonization by *M. s. blakei* from Abaco. Prairie Warblers were noted at The Retreat, Nassau, New Providence 27 Jul for the earliest date there (CW). A Black-and-white Warbler 23 Jul at New Providence was considered very early (CW). A Louisiana Waterthrush made a somewhat early appearance at New Providence 22 Jul (JR); this is one of the earliest Neotropical migrants in e. North America. A female **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** 10 Jun on Nonsuch I. provided the first summer record on Bermuda (JM).

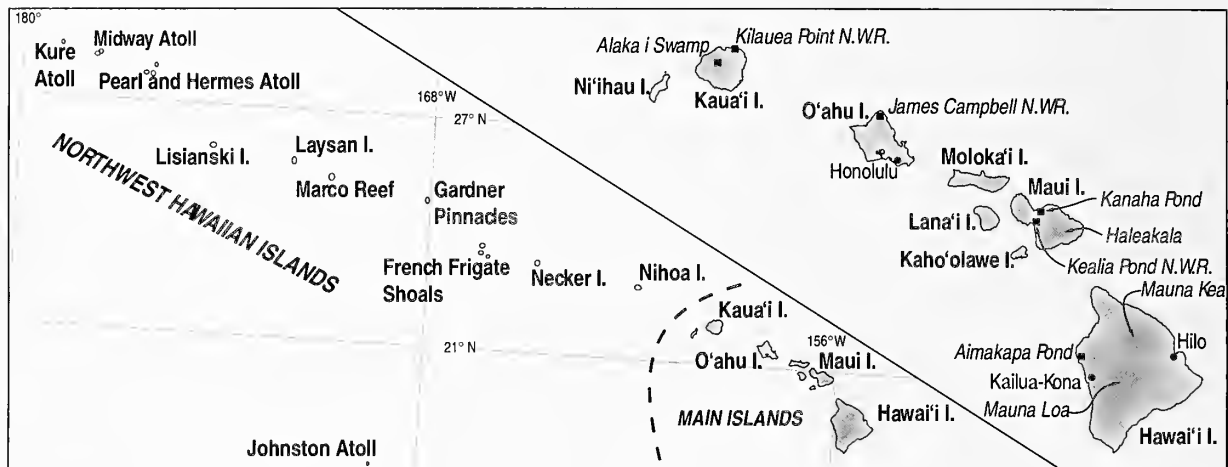
ADDENDUM

A White-winged Dove at Gros Islet, St. Lucia 27-28 May (AL, David Parmeter) was the first reported from this location.

Observers: Mike Albury, Eric Amos, Chuck Cable, Eric Carey, J. R. Crouse, Paul Dean, Andrew Dobson, Harvey Farber, Lynn Gape, John Iverson, Jim Kushlan, Philip Kushlan, Anthony Levesque, Irby Lovette, Will Macklin, Jeremy Madeiros, Neil McKinney, Erika Moultrie-Gates, Henry Nixon, Ron Pagliaro, Jim Redmon, Steve Rodwell, Gary Sprangler, Sigrid Styles, Carolyn Wardle, Doug Wassmer, Paul Watson, Tony White, David B. Wingate.



Hawaiian Islands



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Summer is usually the quietest season in the Hawaiian Islands, and this year was no exception. Observer coverage was typical for summer. All of the pelagic reports we received were from boat trips off Kaua'i and Lehua I. There were few reports of unusual species. One very rare shorebird was reported, but its identification is uncertain. After the first wet winter and spring in several years, June and July were typically dry.

Abbreviations: E. (Endangered Species); H. (Hawai'i I.); Hakalau (Hakalau N.W.R., Hawai'i I.); Hanalei (Hanalei N.W.R., Kaua'i I.); Honouliuli (Honouliuli Unit of Pearl Harbor N.W.R., O'ahu I.); K. (Kaua'i I.); Kealia (Kealia Pond N.W.R., Maui I.); Kii (Kii Unit of Jas. Campbell N.W.R., O'ahu I.); Kokee (Koke'e S.P., Kaua'i I.); K.P. (Kilauea Pt. N.W.R., Kaua'i I.); M. (Maui I.); O. (O'ahu I.); T. (Threatened Species); Waiawa (Waiawa Unit of Pearl Harbor N.W.R., O'ahu I.); Waikamoi (Waikamoi Preserve, Maui I.).

ALBATROSSES THROUGH RAILS

One Laysan Albatross was observed circling Kawaihae Harbor, H. 11 Jul (JB). This is unusually late for a Laysan near the main islands and an unusual location. One

Hawaiian Petrel (E.) was spotted on a pelagic trip from Kaua'i to Lehua 6 Jul (EV), and 3 were seen 26 Jul (DK). Bulwer's Petrels were seen on three Kaua'i to Lehua trips: 5 birds 11 Jun (DK), 1 on 6 Jul (EV) and 5 on 26 Jul (DK). Single Christmas Shearwaters were observed between Kaua'i and Lehua 11 Jun and 26 Jul (DK). Newell's Shearwater (T.) reports included 4 between Kaua'i and Lehua 11 Jun (DK), 5 on 6 Jul (EV), and 3 on 26 Jul (DK). One Newell's was found dead near Kekaha, K. 9 Jul, and one was heard calling near Kekaha 11 Jul (JD). Two Band-rumped Storm-Petrels were seen between Kaua'i and Lehua 11 Jun (DK), 4 on 6 Jul (EV), 3 on 8 Jul (EV), and 7 on 26 Jul (DK). The Band-rumped observed 26 Jul included a flock of 4 birds. Most reports of Band-rumped Storm-Petrels near the Hawaiian Islands are of single birds.

A Great Blue Heron was reported raiding fishponds in Hawaiian Acres, H. The bird was last observed 15 Jun (ph. JB). All herons and egrets except Cattle Egrets and Black-crowned Night-Herons are uncommon or rare in the Hawaiian Islands. Gray Francolins were heard near Honouliuli 22 Jun and 20 & 27 Jul (PD). Gray Francolins had never been reported from sw. O'ahu till Dec 2001, but they have been found regularly since then. Hawaiian Coots' (E.) numbers were low except at Honouliuli, where over 150 were counted on several censuses and active nesting continued Jul+ (PD).

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH TERNS

Hawaiian (Black-necked) Stilt (E.) nesting continued unusually late. Nests with eggs were found 27 Jul at Kii and Honouliuli

(PD). Nesting success appeared pretty good on O'ahu (PD, MS). Since some Pacific Golden-Plovers, Wandering Tattlers, and Ruddy Turnstones are present in Hawaii all summer, it can be hard to detect the earliest fall migrants. Some migrant Pacific Golden-Plovers may have arrived as early as late Jun. Two Pacific Golden-Plovers in partial breeding plumage were seen at Kii 22 Jun (PD). Sixteen Pacific Golden-Plovers were counted at the Waipio Soccer Park, O. 30 Jun (PD)—the first ones in that location for several weeks. There was a big jump in shorebird numbers after mid-Jul. On Jul 20, 33 Pacific Golden-Plovers and 82 Ruddy Turnstones were counted at Kii (PD). A Semipalmated Plover was spotted at Kii 15 (MS) & 20 Jul (PD).

No oversummering Bristle-thighed Curlews were reported in the main islands. The first report of the season was one bird that flew over the observer while he was surfing at Honoli'i, H. 17 Jul (JF). One Bristle-thighed was at Kii 27 Jul (PD). Summer is not the best season for rarities in Hawaii, but one outstanding shorebird rarity turned up on French Frigate Shoals. A large curlew with a very long bill was photographed 3 (ph. SC) & 10 Jun (ph. BB). The bird was probably a **Far Eastern Curlew**, but the observers did not describe the bird's underwings or rump and the photographs do not show these features, so there is a remote possibility the bird could be a Long-billed Curlew. There is only one previous report of a Far Eastern Curlew in Hawaii, and there are no reports of Long-billed Curlews, so either species would be very unusual.

A Franklin's Gull was observed on French

SA Lehua is a small, rocky island—a state seabird sanctuary—about 8 km n. of Ni'ihau. The island is uninhabited and infrequently visited. There has been little information about birdlife on Lehua. Eric VanderWerf surveyed birds on the island 19–21 Feb and returned 6–8 Jul. Highlights of the July survey were 4 Laysan Albatross chicks, an estimated 23,000 Wedge-tailed Shearwater nests, 6 Bulwer's Petrel nests, a probable Band-rumped Storm-Petrel heard calling, and 2 Cattle Egret nests. Large numbers of Sooty Terns and Brown Noddies nest on many of the small, uninhabited islands in the Hawaiian chain. It is interesting that there were so few on Lehua. The following table summarizes the two surveys.

Species	Type of count	19–21 Feb 2002	6–8 Jul 2002
Black-footed Albatross	adults	31	0
	chicks	8	0
Laysan Albatross	adults	50	0
	chicks	9	4
Wedge-tailed Shearwater	nests	0	23,000
Christmas Shearwater	adults	0	2
Bulwer's Petrel	nests	0	6
	carcasses	0	3
Band-rumped Storm-Petrel	adults	0	1
Red-tailed Tropicbird	adults	76	150
	nests	2	40
Brown Booby	adults	303	
	nests	12	369
Red-footed Booby	adults	4288	
	nests	0	1294
Great Frigatebird	adults	38	326
Cattle Egret	adults	19	9
	nests	0	2
Peregrine Falcon	adults	1	0
Pacific Golden-Plover	adults	6	0
Wandering Tattler	adults	0	1
Ruddy Turnstone	adults	9	8
Glaucous-winged Gull	adults	1	0
Gray-backed Tern	adults	0	1
Sooty Tern	adults	2	0
Brown Noddy	adults	1	0
Black Noddy	adults	136	405
Zebra Dove	bones	1	
House Finch	adults	0	2
Nutmeg Mannikin	adults	0	20

Frigate Shoals 27 May–13 Jun, when the bird was found dead (GN). We also received an interesting report of Franklin's Gulls at Palmyra Atoll N.W.R., about 1600 km s. of the main Hawaiian Islands. Ad. Franklin's Gulls were seen there several times 30 Apr–17 Jul (CD). The peak count was of 9 birds 1 Jun. Gulls are uncommon in the Hawaiian Islands. Most of the gulls reported are subad. birds seen from fall through spring. The exception is Franklin's Gull. Most Franklin's are ad. birds in breeding plumage seen from late spring to early summer.

PASSERINES

A Maui Parrotbill (E.) was spotted in Waikamoi 8 Jun (DR) in an area where the species has often been reported. Parrotbills were also found in mesic forest at the west edge of their range 6 May and 10 & 13 Jun. One ad. and a begging juv. were observed (JF). 'Akikiki were scarce, but on 2 Jul, 7 were seen in Kokee along one of the trails (HK), and 2 were seen along another trail (DK). After being nearly silent in Apr and May, Akiapola'au (E.) at Hakalau suddenly started singing and courting in Jun (LP). Three nests were located at Hakalau in Jun (LP). One, possibly 2 'Akohekohe (E.) were found in Waikamoi 8 Jun (DR). One 'Akohekohe was found in the Makawao Forest Reserve, M. 17 Jun (JF). There have been very few reports of 'Akohekohe from that area.

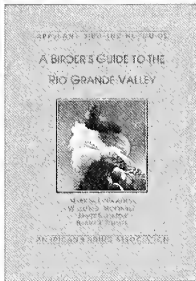
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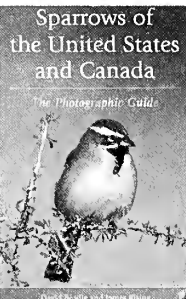


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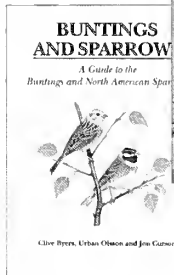
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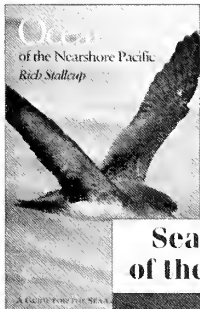
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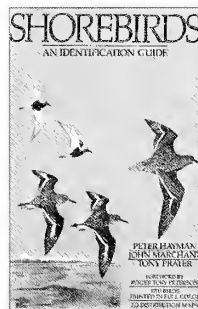
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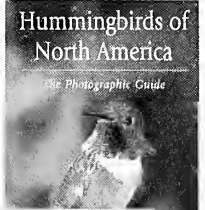
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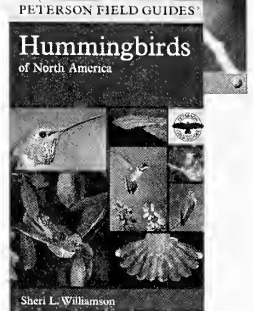
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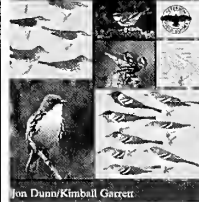
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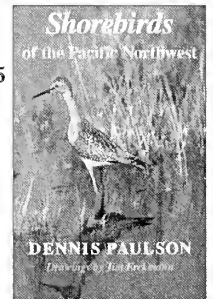
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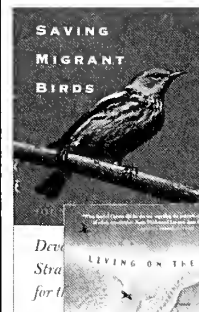
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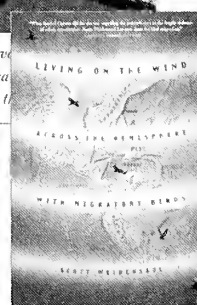
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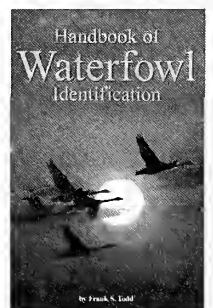
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THREE GEESE RESEMBLING “GRAY-BELLIED BRANT”/“LAWRENCE’S BRANT” FROM LONG ISLAND, NEW YORK

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ABSTRACT

Three oddly plumaged brant, intermediate in several respects between “Atlantic Brant” (*hrota*) and “Black Brant” (*nigricans*), were photographed and described on western Long Island, New York in 2002 (two in March, the third in October). Their plumage corresponded to that of the little-studied and apparently genetically distinctive population known among goose biologists as “Gray-bellied Brant,” which breeds only on a few islands in the western Canadian High Arctic, stages in migration in the inner Aleutians, and winters in a small portion of the Greater Puget Sound area. But Gray-bellied Brant also wander, having been found in winter as far from Puget Sound as Baja California in the west, and Iceland and the British Isles to the east—these strays presumably having migrated southwest with Pacific-wintering *nigricans* and southeast with Atlantic-wintering *hrota*, respectively.

Complicating the picture is that the type specimen of *nigricans*, a distinctive New Jersey specimen collected in 1846, also differs from “true” Pacific Coast Black Brant in several respects, in a manner qualitatively similar to the Long Island birds described herein. The appearance of the type, often referred to informally as “Lawrence’s Brant,” differs from typical Black Brant to such an extent that Delacour and Zimmer (1952) rejected application of *nigricans* to Pacific Black Brant, to which the name *orientalis* would have to be applied instead. Recent examination of museum specimens of breeding- and winter-area Gray-bellieds confirms that Lawrence’s Brant closely resembles some of them—as do these three Long Island birds. Whatever the ultimate statuses of Gray-bellied and Lawrence’s Brant prove to be—and however the relationships among them and the three currently recognized other taxa of brant eventually play out—birds resembling Gray-bellied/Lawrence’s are occurring on both Atlantic and Pacific coasts and perhaps also in interior North America, so knowledge of their plumage variation should now be factored into the identification of all oddly-plumaged or out-of-range brant, but especially of putative “*nigricans*” inland or on the Atlantic Coast.

INTRODUCTION

On 14 March 2002, at Jacob Riis Park on the Rockaways barrier beach separating Jamaica Bay from the Atlantic Ocean, S. S. Mitra and P. A. Buckley found an odd dark brant in a flock of 500 or so Atlantic-wintering Brant, *Branta bernicla hrota*—the European name for which is “Pale-bellied Brent Goose” (herein called “Atlantic Brant”). One week previous,

SSM had found another off-color Black Brant some 32 km east at Jones Inlet. Both appeared to be curiously lightish Black Brant, *B. b. nigricans*, but we suspected that both might actually be Gray-bellied Brant—a name first used by Canadian Wildlife Service biologists and now generally applied to a little-known population breeding in the western Canadian High Arctic and wintering mostly in Puget Sound (Washington and British Columbia). Detailed descriptions were taken of both individuals, but neither was photographed when found. However, on 16 March 2002, SSM and others relocated and photographed both. On 26 October, just one week before an article discussing the March birds was scheduled to begin layout, SSM and P. Lindsay found and photographed a third possible Gray-bellied Brant on Long Island—this one at Robert Moses State Park, near Fire Island Inlet, ca. 28 km east of Jones Inlet.

DESCRIPTIONS

Bird I—Point Lookout, Jones Inlet, Nassau County, Long Island, New York

7 March 2002—SSM notes: strikingly dark adult brant suggesting Black, but browner dorsally and ventrally than expected for that taxon. Back, lower breast, and belly wholly dark brown, slightly darker than back color of adjacent *hrota* but still obviously lighter than neck-stocking. Flanks stark white. Necklace huge, bold, complete ventrally, and almost complete dorsally. Below occiput, collar with only small gap in center of nape, but its end-points linked by less distinct, downward-pointing white V. Bird larger than many *hrota*, and conspicuously thick-necked.

16 March 2002: J. Fritz, G. Fritz, R. Kurtz, P. Lindsay, and SSM relocated and photographed this individual (Fig. 1) shortly after they had relocated and photographed Bird II (Fig. 2; see below).

17–23 March 2002: SSM observed the Pt. Lookout bird on three additional dates, in the company of numerous other observers, and under a variety of lighting circumstance. Thus, Bird I proved to be the only one of the three described here that was certainly seen by multiple observers, and it was photographed by several people over the week. In general, it was regarded as a “Black Brant” in informal conversation, but virtually all observers readily noted that its body plumage was brown, not blackish, and therefore contrasted markedly with its black neck stocking. SSM explicitly noted over this series of observations that the features whereby Bird I differed from a typical Black Brant were most obvious under good, indirect light, and least obvious (though nevertheless still discernable) under either direct, glaring light or very low light levels. Figures 1–3 accurately convey field impressions; in SSM’s opinion, Figure 1 particularly represents Bird I’s appearance in life under ideal viewing conditions.

Bird II—Jacob Riis Park, Gateway National Recreation Area, Queens County, Long Island, New York

14 March 2002—SSM notes: second adult, different from Pt. Lookout bird. Bold, ventrally complete necklace, bold white flanks, dark underparts extending through legs, and obvious contrast between stocking and both upper- and underparts. Upperpart color uniformly dark brown, darker than many *hrota* but very close to some *hrota* adults in fresh-looking plumage. Lower part of front of neck collar complete, but fine webbing above broken in center-front; in rear, collar broken, and two end-points, although curling farther around rear of the neck than in any *hrota*,

Apparent Gray-bellied Brant on Long Island

not linked by downward-pointing V as in previous week's bird. Size slightly smaller (not slightly larger, as was last week's bird) than accompanying *hrota*; appeared short-legged but not particularly thick-necked, and showed straight head-bill profile. Flank patch contrasted well with dark underparts, but resembled *hrota*'s in rectangular shape, limited brownish crescents, and only moderately defined brown rearward border. Dark underparts extended through legs (but not much farther beyond) and faded out (became paler) toward white vent. Underpart color tone deep grayish-brown, similar to, but slightly paler than, dorsal color. Sharp contrast between black stocking and brown dorsal and ventral color.

14 March 2002—PAB notes: Adult dark brant in *hrota* flock. First thought very *nigricans*-like, but inspection suggested possible Gray-bellied Brant. Brown-backed, essentially similar to *hrota*; black stocking sharply and obviously separate from chest and back; complete, tall, white neck-ring ventrally, ending dorsally as two triangles pointing upward at about 45-degree angle but not quite meeting. Lower breast and belly dark, brownish-tan, showing only limited *hrota*-like horizontal scaling. Dark color extended to or slightly past legs where appeared to fade out (depending on angle of view) rather than ending abruptly as in typical Black Brant. Ventral dark color widest below stocking, then narrowing posteriorly when reaching legs. Lacked nominate *bernicla*'s smooth smoky-brown texture with pinkish tints, and the almost jet-black of typical Black Brant: a uniquely colored and patterned brant ventrally. Flanks with rectangular off-white patch having vertical barring strongest at rear and at front of whitish patch (which reached up to folded wings, where it brightened considerably). Flank patch broad and more or less rectangularly symmetrical—in sharp contrast to lobate flank patch of Black Brant (narrow anteriorly and flaring posteriorly to twice its anterior width, usually dipping downward toward legs). Patch not sharply set off from black belly and black back as in Black Brant, and shape very similar to those of adjacent *hrota*. Flat profile of head from skull crest through culmen to bill tip, not concave as in many (but not all) adjacent *hrota*. Noticeably smaller and shorter-legged than *hrota*; tail coverts either so long or tail so short that only very narrow black band visible at end of upper tail surface. At distance, not nearly as easy to pick out from *hrota* as typical Black Brant; one had to scan flock until suddenly "coming upon it."

16 March 2002, Jacob Riis and Point Lookout—SSM notes: J. Fritz, G. Fritz, R. Kurtz, P. Lindsay, and SSM relocated and photographed this individual shortly before they relocated and photographed Bird I (see above). These observers confirmed that the Pt. Lookout bird was darker than the Riis Park bird, but nevertheless also showed clear contrast between black stocking and brown back and breast. They also agreed that the Riis Park bird showed a more extensive, rectangular white flank patch, and that its dark underparts extended less far to the rear and faded (lightened) much more markedly. Differences noted earlier regarding details of collar patterns and relative body size were confirmed.

Bird III—Robert Moses State Park, Suffolk County, Long Island, New York

26 October 2002—SSM notes: distinctive-looking adult brant, recognized among *hrota* by its grayish-brown ventral apron contrasting obviously with black upper breast and extending rearward between and slightly beyond legs; there, it faded and tapered to an obscure point (very different from the discrete and semicircular terminus of a Black Brant's apron), but was nevertheless visible from full rear views. Dorsal plumage was essentially identical in color to nearby *hrota* and slightly darker and browner than apron. As in nearby non-juvenile *hrota*, the back showed worn, rusty feathers interspersed among the fresh, brown feathers. Both dorsum and apron contrasted very obviously with black neck-stocking—

as much as *hrota* dorsum did. The white flank patch was roughly rectangular and did not narrow as dramatically to the front as in Black Brant; this feature—as well as the color tone of the back—was totally unlike Dark-bellied Brant. The neck collar was medium-bold for non-juvenile *hrota*, but not strikingly so; it was completely broken ventrally and did not curl far around the nape dorsally. The webbing on the sides of the neck collar was moderately tall. The head-bill profile was slightly concave and within the limits of variation showed by nearby *hrota*. This bird was obviously larger than several nearby *hrota*, and it appeared bulky, with a deep belly and an angle between the thick neck and the bulging breast. (See Fig. 3 for a photo taken by SSM on 26 October 2002.)

"FRONTIERS OF FIELD IDENTIFICATION" POSTING AND RESPONSES

On 26 March 2002, we posted photographs and descriptions of Birds I and II on the "Frontiers Of Field Identification" <birdwg01@listserv.arizona.edu>, Will Russell's listserv. Unexpectedly few responses were forthcoming, but this was probably due to the almost complete lack of published information on and general knowledge of Gray-bellied Brant. Reactions of those experienced observers who did respond ranged from bewilderment ("What are those birds?"), to certainty ("I'd pass this by as just a Black Brant," but also "A classic Gray-bellied Brant."), and uncertainty ("I have never seen anything like that."). These replies faithfully mirror the current lack of knowledge about Gray-bellied Brant but also an unanticipated problem: if extensive variation in "true" Black Brant adults exists, it has never been described in any field-identification context and in fact is barely touched upon in recent reviews (e.g., Palmer 1976, Reed et al. 1998).

BACKGROUND

Gray-bellied Brant breed only on the Parry Islands (Melville, Prince Patrick, and Borden) in the western Canadian High Arctic, winter principally in the Padilla Bay and Boundary Bay areas of Puget Sound, and in migration stage at Izembek Lagoon in Alaska. For a form with a very small population (recent estimates range from only 5000-7000 individuals), Gray-bellied Brant seem to wander more than expected, with banded or marked individuals having been recovered or seen as far afield as Baja California, Iceland, and the British Isles (Reed et al. 1998; A. Reed and H. Boyd, pers. comm.; details to be published elsewhere by those involved).

A very brief look at their mitochondrial DNA with a tiny sample (Shields 1990) concluded that Gray-bellied Brant were "morphologically distinct and genetically separated from other brant [...] [that] their mtDNA is unique, [and that] they have been reproductively isolated from Pacific Black Brant for 400,000 years." The mtDNA of the single *hrota* examined in the same study was even more divergent, affirming Gray-bellied Brant's uniqueness, but larger samples of all brant populations/stocks are clearly needed for full confidence in any taxonomic conclusions.

Adding to the uncertainty is the fact that Gray-bellied Brant has never been formally described taxonomically as either subspecies or species. However, in 1846, when G. N. Lawrence originally described *nigricans* Black Brant, it was from a specimen taken on the Atlantic Coast, in New Jersey. Black Brant of any kind are vagrants in eastern North America, so this was a puzzling locus for the type of the quintessentially Pacific Ocean Black Brant. Western Hemisphere brant taxonomy was dormant until Delacour and Zimmer (1952) reexamined Lawrence's *nigricans* type, deciding that it was actually not a "true" Pacific Black Brant, for which the Russian name *orientalis*, already available in the literature, would now have to be applied. Delacour and Zimmer also predicted that Lawrence's

nigricans would prove to be an “almost extinct subspecies nesting farther south than the other [brant] and therefore easily destroyed,” although no such breeding grounds were known. However, most subsequent workers have not followed Delacour and Zimmer’s recommendations.

Matters rested again for 50 years until the uniqueness of Gray-bellied Brant was recognized, and eventually a few authors (Garner 1998, Garner and Millington 2001) began to speculate that perhaps Lawrence’s Brant was really Gray-bellied Brant. A major molecular study of the world’s brant involving biologists from Europe and North America has recently begun, but will not be concluded for some years (S. Talbot, U.S. Geological Survey, pers. comm.). While this study is directed at the harvesting and management of the world’s brant “stocks,” its results will nonetheless be welcomed by taxonomists, although it will be some time before uniform systematic conclusions are widely adopted.

David Sibley’s (2000) splendid guide illustrates what he calls a “stable intermediate population” of brant [that is, intermediate between Black Brant and Atlantic Brant] breeding on Melville Island and describes “intergrades” between Black and Atlantic as closely resembling Melville Island birds. Despite their tendency to associate with locally wintering *hrota* and *nigricans*, mixed pairs or hybrid young involving these vagrants have never been demonstrated in North America—nor have mixed pairs or hybrid young between *hrota* and *nigricans*, widespread belief to the contrary. In fact, the “intergrades” Sibley depicts are actually much closer to the nominate Eurasian form (*Branta bernicla bernicla*), known as Dark-bellied Brant or “Dark-bellied Brent Geese,” than to Gray-bellied. Worldwide, there is increasing awareness that documented hybridization and/or introgression between any brant populations or taxa is rare—perhaps only involving the occasional mixed pair of Black x Dark-bellied in western Siberia or mixed family groups of these same forms on *bernicla*’s European wintering grounds (Berrevoets and Erkman 1993, Bakker and Ebels 2002, Buckley et al., in ms.). However, despite some published statements and popular belief to the contrary—and a wealth of time and effort focused in this direction—we are aware of no firm evidence for breeding or wintering *hrota/nigricans* mixed pairs or hybrid young, even though several circumstances render such hybridization theoretically likely (e.g., vagrancy of each to the other’s wintering areas, pair formation among geese occurring on wintering grounds, and tendencies among waterfowl to hybridize). Syroechkovski et al. (1998) claimed to have found an area in Siberia where *bernicla* and *nigricans* were interbreeding. Their paper generated a very strong rebuttal by Sangster (2000), who pointed out many problems with the 1998 paper, chief among them that the very identification of some or all birds called *nigricans* was, after examination of published photos, in doubt if not in error, and that all birds may actually have been *bernicla*. In their response, Zöchler et al. (2000) countered that *nigricans* had indeed been correctly identified, and moreover, that birds from the area of sympatry were known from ringing recoveries to belong to two populations, one going to the Netherlands (thus presumably *bernicla*) and the other to the west coast of the United States (thus presumably *nigricans/orientalis*). The question still seems to be open.

IDENTIFICATION OF GRAY-BELLIED BRANT

In connection with other work on brant, the authors had previously examined the extensive brant collections at the Museum of Comparative Zoology, the American Museum of Natural History (including Lawrence’s type of “*nigricans*”), and the Canadian Museum of Nature (National Museum of Canada) in Hull; the latter probably holds the world’s largest collection of breeding-ground Gray-bellied Brant skins.

What do Gray-bellied Brant look like? If one were to summarize what is known of their plumage, one might describe them as roughly interme-

diating between Black and Atlantic Brant: i.e., showing conspicuous white flank patches (unlike Dark-bellied Brant); brownish or dark grayish lower breasts and bellies (darker and more extensive than Atlantic, but lighter and less extensive than Black); more obvious contrast between neck stocking and lower breast than Black Brant; and a tendency for dark scaling on the upper breast and flanks (like Atlantic, but unlike Black). Belly color ranges from dark gray to almost as dark as Black Brant (but never as light as *hrota*), and it variably ends before, at, or after the leg insertion point, although on specimens, skin make can obscure this. *Nigricans*’ dark belly always (?) ends well past the legs and usually sharply, while that of Gray-bellied appears more to feather or taper into white posteriorly. Neck collar in adult Gray-bellied Brant may be the most variable of any brant population, ranging from interrupted as in *hrota*, through partially connected (usually at the bottom) as in occasional *hrota* and some *nigricans*, to fully connected top and bottom as in most *nigricans*. Moreover, both Gray-bellied Brant and *nigricans* can show extremely tall neck collars, but this may result from alert postures in living birds or skin make in specimens.

We are aware of only two published papers with color photographs of apparent Gray-bellied Brant, both from wintering grounds. The first (Garner 1998) depicted a presumed Gray-bellied Brant from Northern Ireland. The second (Garner and Millington 2001) presents additional (but overly gray) photos of Gray-bellied Brant wintering in Northern Ireland and in Puget Sound. Both papers should be consulted for their excellent photographs, but in essence their brant resemble the three Long Island birds quite well.

The primary obstacle to easy identification of Gray-bellied Brant is that both Canadian Arctic breeders and Puget Sound winterers have been described as exceptionally variable in plumage, some approaching *hrota* and some *nigricans* (Figs. 4-5). At present, identification of extremely light individuals (if these are in fact genetically Gray-bellied Brant, and not just vagrant *hrota*) is controversial. Furthermore, although dark individuals have been regarded as distinguishable from “true” Pacific Black Brant (adults of which appear very dark, even blackish, both dorsally and ventrally, and show very little contrast between black neck stocking and dark back and breast), a second source of difficulty could involve unappreciated (and undescribed) plumage variation among the Black Brant.

What does Lawrence’s Brant look like? It has apparently never been accurately illustrated, but basically it is a palish Black Brant with a strong stocking/chest contrast, complete collar ventrally, and a grayish-brown, not black, belly with wide, horizontal scaling similar to *hrota* (Figs. 6-7). To date, no one besides Lawrence has claimed any additional specimens matching the type. [Originally, there were three in his collection, two from southern New Jersey in the 1840s and a third from Virginia in 1888; through the early 1950s, all three were in the AMNH (Delacour and Zimmer 1952). Subsequently, the one from Virginia was discarded or lost, and the other New Jersey specimen has recently been re-identified (Buckley et al., in ms.).] Nonetheless, there do exist adult brant specimens labeled *nigricans* that show lighter (= browner) dorsal and ventral plumage, hence a bit more contrast with the stocking. Of six specimens of this general appearance in the AMNH, one was collected in winter at Puget Sound, three were collected in summer in the northwestern Canadian Arctic, and one is Lawrence’s type. Thus, it seems more than possible that these specimens all come from the same population—that which is known today as Gray-bellied Brant but which in fact may represent the long-lost Lawrence’s Brant breeding population. If this is so, then “true” Black Brant adults should seldom if ever show conspicuously brown dorsal and ventral plumage in obvious contrast to the black stocking. Clearly, more investigation of this character is required.

Apparent Gray-bellied Brant on Long Island

Is Lawrence's Brant actually Gray-bellied Brant? It is uncertain at this time, but Lawrence's shows no morphological features outside the known range of Gray-bellied Brant, and matches no other known/described brant. There are plans to extract mtDNA from Lawrence's type in order to determine its most likely identity: (a) Gray-bellied Brant; (b) Pacific Black Brant; (c) Pacific Black/Atlantic Brant hybrid; or (d) unique. Perhaps the most interesting outcome would be that Lawrence's Brant matches no known brant population, raising the fascinating possibility of still another distinctive brant from unknown breeding grounds—as originally suggested by Delacour and Zimmer (1952). Time will tell.

It also must be said that we are by no means implying that Lawrence's Brant represents a "typical" Gray-bellied Brant (assuming it proves to be Gray-bellied Brant). Rather, it appears at this stage in our knowledge that Lawrence's Brant fits well into the spectrum of variation in known Gray-bellied Brant from their breeding grounds, and that Lawrence's Brant and Gray-bellied Brant both match several recent odd brant from western Long Island. Additional information on variation in Gray-bellied Brant is shown well in Garner and Millington (2001), but the full extent of Gray-bellied Brant's morphological limits remains to be described. A related issue is how often "true" Pacific Black Brant (*nigricans* in current taxonomy) actually occur on the Atlantic Coast, and how often Atlantic Brant (*hrota*) occur on the Pacific Coast. Although "Black Brant" are seen annually from Massachusetts to New Jersey at least and have been photographed several times, a number of older specimens have vanished (e.g., Griscom 1923, Murray 1952, Griscom and Snyder 1955), and so as far as known, there were no longer any extant specimens of eastern "Black Brant" available for taxonomic determination. Recently however, PAB located a completely typical adult female Black Brant in the MCZ, taken 23 December 1981, Chatham, Cape Cod (MCZ # 331371), whose existence as an extant skin has apparently never previously been published. As far as we know, this is the only extant Atlantic Coast specimen closely resembling a typical Black Brant. Recently, other observers have been scrutinizing brant on Long Island, and some have located additional "odd brant" (i.e., not *hrota* but unnamed) as well as Black Brant. While it is most likely that these are indeed not *hrota*, some may be *nigricans*, others may resemble Gray-bellied Brant, and still others could plausibly refer to *bernicla*—so it is inapt for us to discuss them here. Without evidence of mixed pairings and without mtDNA information, identification of many such brant has been likewise problematic, but it would be inappropriate to presume "atypical" birds to be hybrids.

While the Fifth A. O. U. *Check-list* (1957) does not record *hrota*'s presence on the Pacific Coast, Palmer (1976) notes its occurrence in California, Washington, and British Columbia, "including a number of captures, flock of 5 seen, small groups, etc." However, many earlier (and perhaps recent) records are clouded by confusion with Gray-bellied Brant, as there are more than a few reports of "intermediates"—notably from Puget Sound (Palmer 1976). Brant of any type are rare in interior North America and so tend to be examined closely when found. Both *hrota* and *nigricans* are reported in *North American Birds* annually (usually singly) from interior provinces and states, although it would be useful to revisit any records supported by skins or photographs. As to any presumed interior Gray-bellied Brant, we are aware of only two at present: Jasper, Alberta, 18 October 1959, described as an "intermediate" brant (Salt 1961) although the description matches Gray-bellied (pictures were taken but we do not know if they are extant); and 6-12 November 2001, Kamloops, British Columbia (Cecile 2002), apparently not photographed. Thus, although Atlantic Coast, Pacific Coast, and interior observers will all have several brant taxa/populations to con-

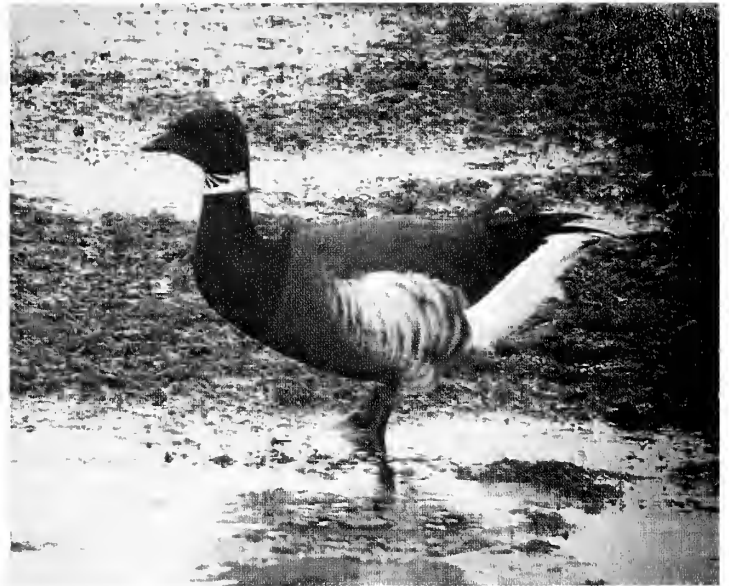


Figure 1. Bird I. Apparent adult Gray-bellied/Lawrence's Brant, Jones Inlet, Point Lookout, Nassau County, Long Island, New York, 16 March 2002. *Digiscoped photograph by S.S. Mitra.*



Figure 2. Bird II Apparent adult Gray-bellied/Lawrence's Brant, Jacob Riis Park, Queens County, Long Island, New York, 16 March 2002. *Digiscoped photograph by S.S. Mitra.*

tend with, as familiarity with Gray-bellied is gained, the true migratory, wintering, and vagrant status of all North American brant taxa should slowly become apparent.

CONCLUSIONS

At present, the identification of out-of-range brant anywhere in North America is complicated by at least three serious deficiencies: (1) the limits of variation in Atlantic and Black Brant plumages are poorly documented—especially in the published literature; (2) an enormous disparity exists between, on the one hand, field observers' informal perceptions regarding the frequency and likely appearance of hybrids between Atlantic and Black Brant, and, on the other, the absence of published, documented examples of such hybridization; and (3) the status and appearance of Gray-bellied Brant remain imperfectly known.

Absent mtDNA data, we cannot absolutely dismiss the possibility that our three birds are *hrota/nigricans* hybrids. But because of the absence of proven hybridization between *hrota* and *nigricans* and of mixed pairs on



Figure 3. Bird III. Apparent adult Gray-bellied/Lawrence's Brant (left front), Robert Moses State Park, Suffolk County, Long Island, New York, 26 October 2002. Photograph by S.S. Mitra.



Figure 4.



Figure 5.

Figures 4-5. Variation in breeding female Gray-bellied Brant (with brood patches) in June—July 1949 from Prince Patrick Island, Nunavut, Canada (CMN collections). Note complete neck-rings ventrally. Photographs by P. A. Buckley.

North American wintering grounds involving *hrota*, *nigricans*, or Gray-bellied Brant, hybrid origin must be deemed unlikely. Moreover, the plumages of the three Long Island birds are also outside those of *hrota* and *nigricans* in our own experience, but *do* fall within that described for Gray-bellied Brant, while at least two of our three brant also match Lawrence's type very well.

In addition, with much Internet talk about "intergrade" brant, it is of interest that those few offspring of mixed *berniola* x *nigricans* pairs recently photographed in Europe (Berrevoets and Erkman 1993, Bloomfield and McCallum 2001, Martin 2002) are quite different from the brant we describe here, and thus can also be confidently removed from identification consideration.

Thus, at least for now, identities of the Long Island birds must be evaluated in the context of an absence of significant documented color variation among undoubted adult Black Brant, an absence of documented hybrids between Black and Atlantic Brant, and a relatively high level of

variability described among Gray-bellied Brant. Given these caveats, PAB and SSM believe that the three geese described above most closely resemble Gray-bellied Brant. Certainly each of these three birds differs from the others in appearance, but all three share a suite of qualitative characters distinguishing them from Atlantic, Black, and Dark-bellied Brant. Birds II and III in particular appear to approximate the Gray-bellied Brant "plumage center of gravity" by virtue of:

- lighter absolute color values of their dorsal and ventral plumage (both closely resembling the dorsal color of adjacent *hrota*);
- correspondingly starker contrast of these areas to the stocking;
- more rectangular (anteriorly extensive) white flank patch;
- less posteriorly extensive dark ventral plumage, reaching only as far back as the point below the rear edge of the flank patch; and
- less uniform ventral pigmentation, patterned with crescents near the stocking and lightening in intensity posteriorly.

Moreover, whatever Lawrence's Brant ultimately proves to be, two of

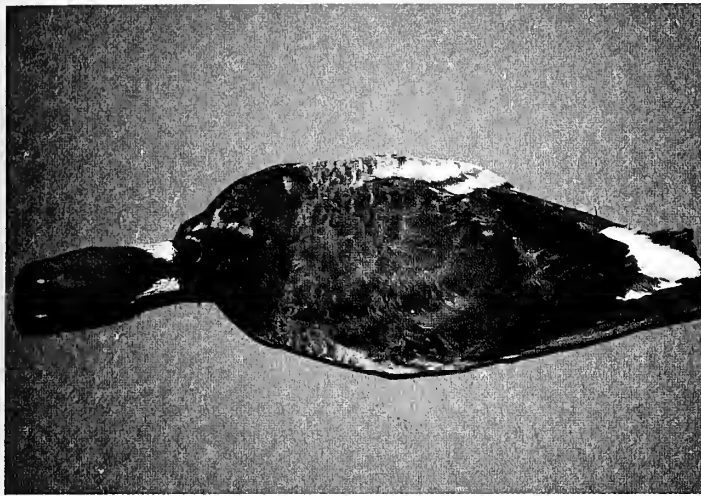


Figure 6.

Figure 7.

Figures 6-7. Type of "*Branta nigricans*," Lawrence's Brant, Egg Harbor, New Jersey, January 1846 (AMNH) collections. Photographs by P. A. Buckley.

the three Long Island birds resemble it rather closely and differ from typical Black Brant exactly in the manner described by Delacour and Zimmer (1952). Thus it would seem that either these Long Island brant or Lawrence's Brant might represent the first documented Gray-bellied Brant on the Atlantic Coast. Given that known Gray-bellied Brant have been recovered from Baja California, they must also be occurring along the Pacific Coast of the United States south of Puget Sound, even though we are aware of no reports. Irrespective of Gray-bellied Brant's ultimate taxonomic status (species, subspecies, or hybrid swarm), given its intermediate and variable plumage and its demonstrated penchant for vagrancy, observers would do well to pay particularly close attention to any "odd" brant, particularly those appearing intermediate between Black and Atlantic Brant, and—especially inland or along the Atlantic Coast—to all vagrant "*nigricans*."

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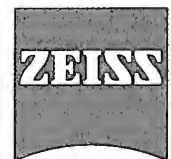
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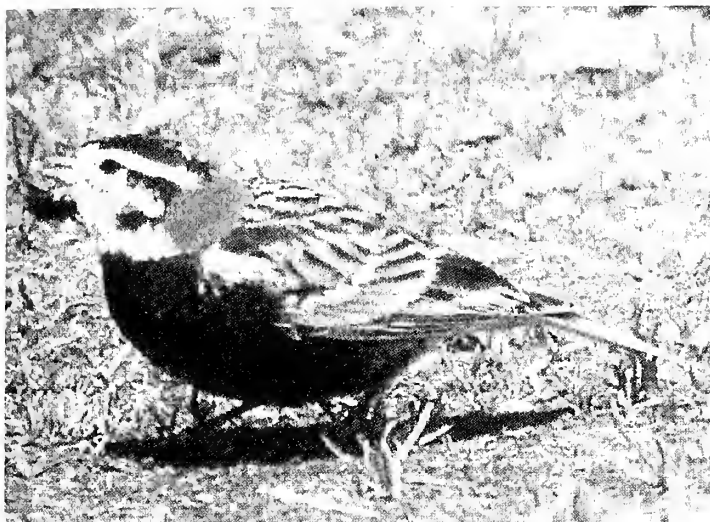
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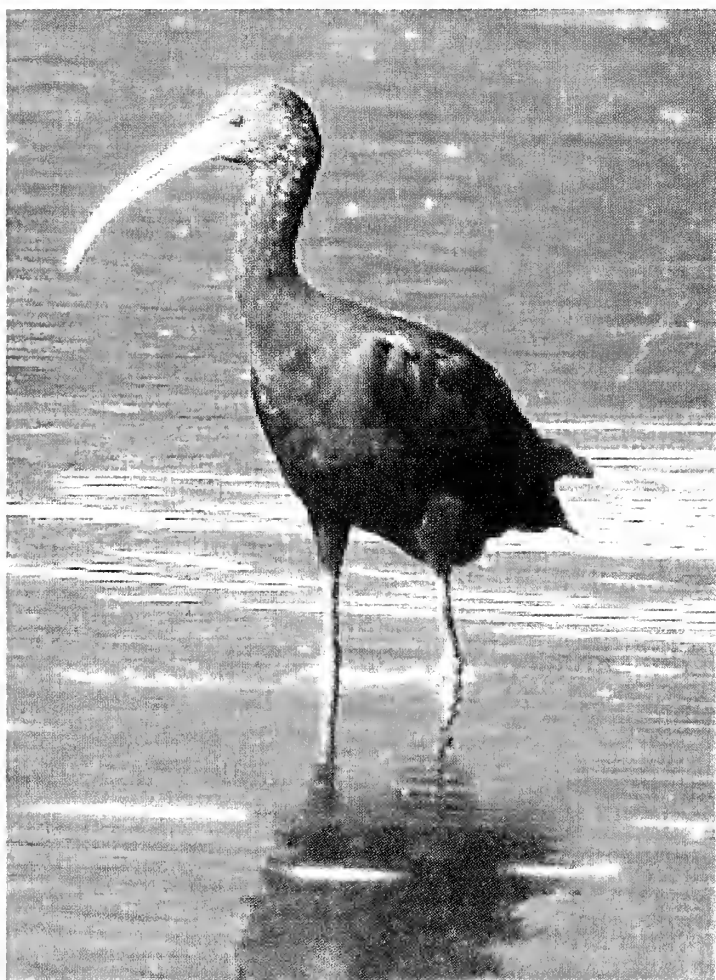
This male Chestnut-collared Longspur frequented a lawn at Tiverton, Long Island, Nova Scotia 10-19 May (here 16 May) 2002—an eighth provincial record, all but one of which have also been in the spring. *Photograph by Ian McLaren.*



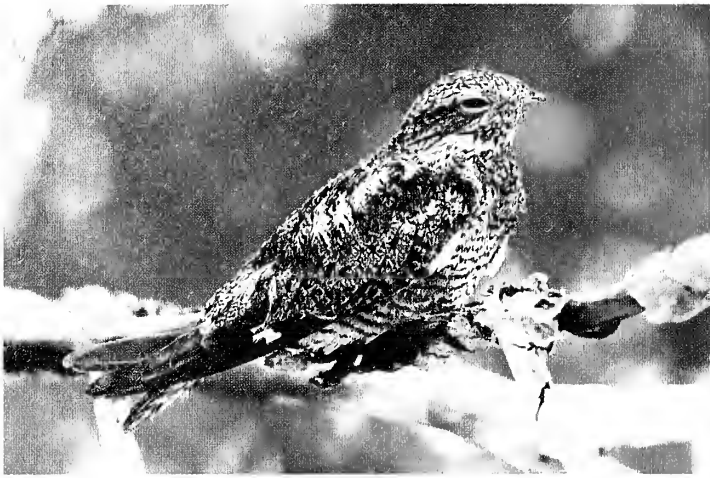
Canada's first Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow was photographed 6 April 2002 at the "Winter Sparrow Oasis" at Daniel's Head, Cape Sable Island, off Nova Scotia, among many Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows, Savannah Sparrows, and a very rare Seaside Sparrow. *Photograph by Ian McLaren.*



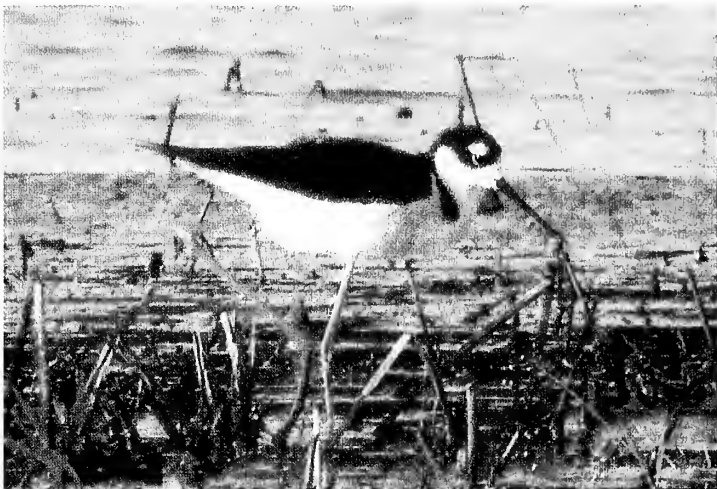
North Carolina had to wait a bit longer than neighboring states for confirmation of White-faced Ibis within its borders, but this obliging adult at Nags Head, Dare County and vicinity 28 June through 20 July 2002 should place the species on the state's Official list. *Photograph by Will Cook.*



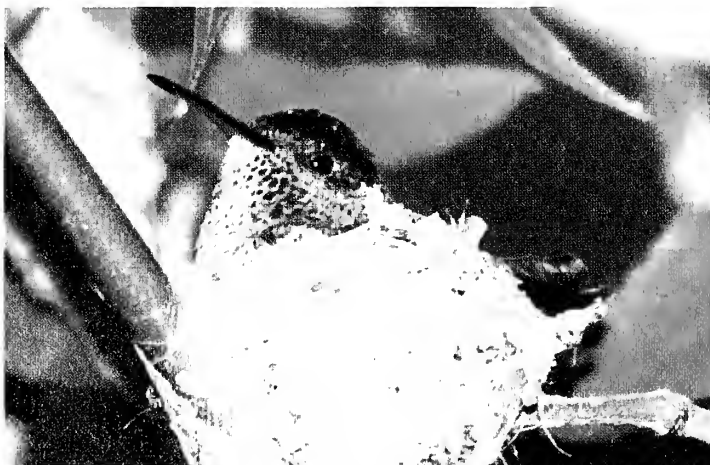
This White-faced Ibis at Cow Meadow, Freeport, Nassau County, New York was present from 2 July 2002 (here) to the middle of the month, part of a continuing expansion of the species away from core range. *Photograph by Angus Wilson.*



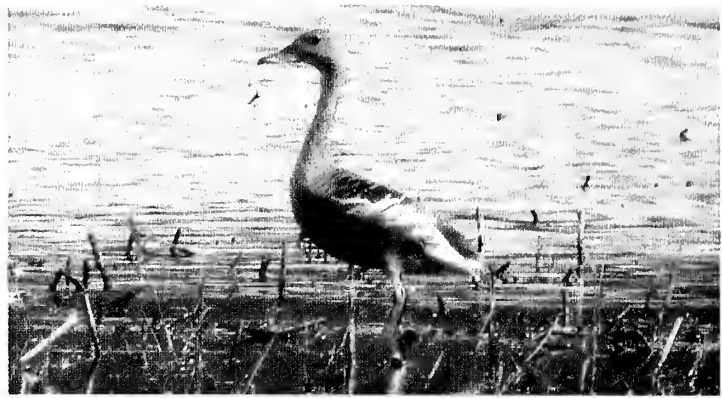
In the A.B.A. Area, most birders see Antillean Nighthawks on Florida's Keys, where they emerge in the late afternoon to hunt insects; few are privileged to see the species at rest, when its contrasting pale tertials, a distinction from local Common Nighthawks, can be seen well. This bird's white throat patch means that it is probably an adult male; it was photographed 8 June 2002 at Sugarloaf Key. *Photograph by Carmen Tarantino.*



Black-necked Stilts, expanding across a broad front from the Pacific Northwest to the southern Canadian prairies, made headlines in Indiana this summer, with the discovery of several active nests and many wanderers—in a state where the species has been considered accidental. This stilt was one of two nonbreeders at Grand Kankakee Marsh, Lake County, Indiana 14-17 (here 15) June 2002. *Photograph by Jeffrey J. McCoy.*



This female Berylline Hummingbird appeared at Ramsey Canyon 26 June 2002 and stayed to nest in July. *Photograph by Carmen Tarantino.*



This unbanded Fulvous Whistling-Duck visited Grand Kankakee Marsh, Lake County, Indiana on 8 June 2002. This declining species makes fewer appearances away from the southeastern states and Texas than in decades past. *Photograph by Jeffrey J. McCoy.*



Searching for nests of low-density breeders in one's area can be a fine way to spend the season. At the Ritchie Ledges section of Cuyahoga Valley National Park, Summit County, Ohio, six Hermit Thrush nests were found, including this bird's nest 18 July 2002. *Photograph by Dwight W. Chasar.*



This nest of Greater Pewees was discovered near Mount Livermore in the Davis Mountains, Texas on 9 July 2002, providing Texas with its first breeding record. Singing Greater Pewees have been documented in the general area in four of the past five years, including one in the same area in 2001. *Photograph by Kelly B. Bryan.*

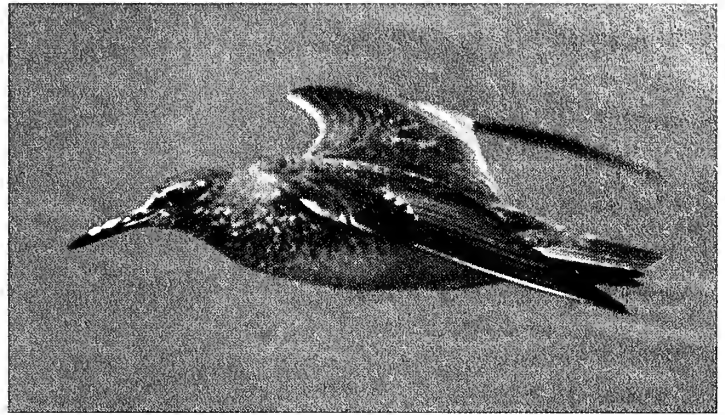


Providing only the second confirmed record for Churchill, Manitoba, this Bay-breasted Warbler was photographed there 13 June 2002. *Photograph by James Leupold.*

PICTORIAL HIGHLIGHTS



An immature White Ibis at the Nature Conservancy's Kankakee Sands wet prairie 25-27 June 2002 was Indiana's first in seven years. *Photograph by Jeffrey J. McCoy.*



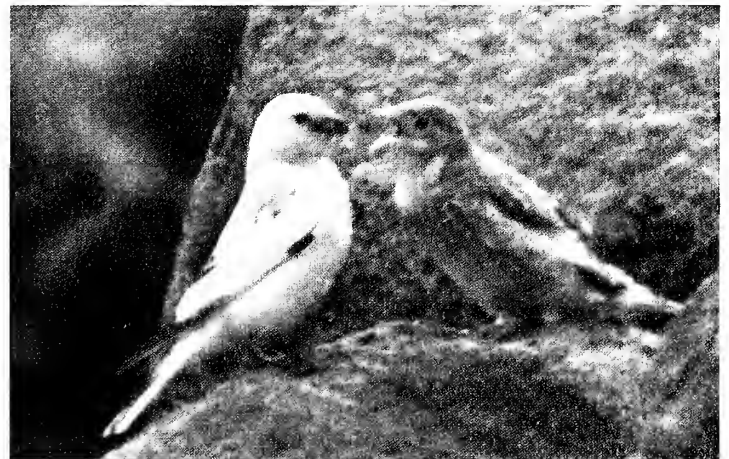
Gray-tailed Tattlers are regular in small numbers in summer on St. Paul Island, Alaska, where this bird was photographed 19 July 2002. Compare this flight shot's nice depiction of the tail pattern to the erroneous illustrations in several popular field guides. *Photograph by George L. Armistead.*



The only Sharp-tailed Sandpiper at St. Paul Island, Alaska all summer was this adult at East Landing and the Salt Lagoon 27 July 2002. *Photograph by George L. Armistead.*



Irregular in appearances at the northern extreme of range here, Masked Booby had not been recorded in June off Hatteras, North Carolina in a few years. This adult was found in the Gulf Stream here 9 June 2002. In the western North Atlantic, there are no confirmed records of the species north of North Carolina. *Photograph by J. Brian Patteson.*



This female McKay's Bunting on St. Paul, first discovered 23 May 2002, was photographed 12 June feeding three young produced with a male Snow Bunting. *Photograph by George L. Armistead.*



This male Yellow-faced Grassquit, the second for Texas, defended a territory at Bentsen—Rio Grande Valley State Park 8-29 June 2002. During that time, it also constructed a nest but not surprisingly did not attract a female. *Photograph by Kenny Nichols.*



Providing one of few records for Georgia, this adult White-tailed Tropicbird was found on a pelagic trip off St. Catherine's Island 24 June 2002. Note the apricot wash to the tail. *Photograph by James Flynn, Jr.*



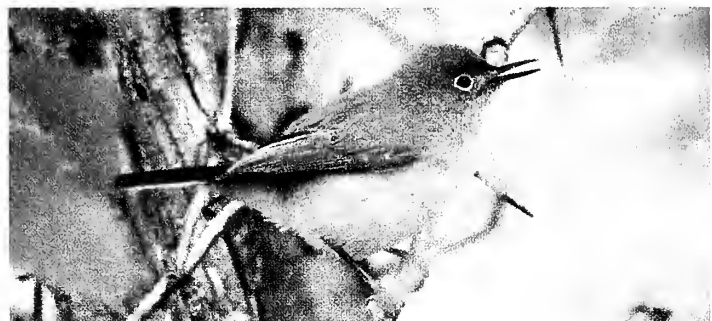
Breeding West Indian Whistling-Ducks are rarely documented in the northern Bahamas; this brood on Andros Island in June 2002 constitutes one of few confirmed records of breeding there. *Photograph by Jessica Spencer.*



Bruce Mactavish's extended visit to the Inuvik area in Northwest Territories of Canada produced a number of interesting avian records this season, the most startling being this adult Black-tailed Gull at the Inuvik landfill 4 June 2002, which constitutes one of very few interior records for the continent. *Photograph by Bruce Mactavish.*



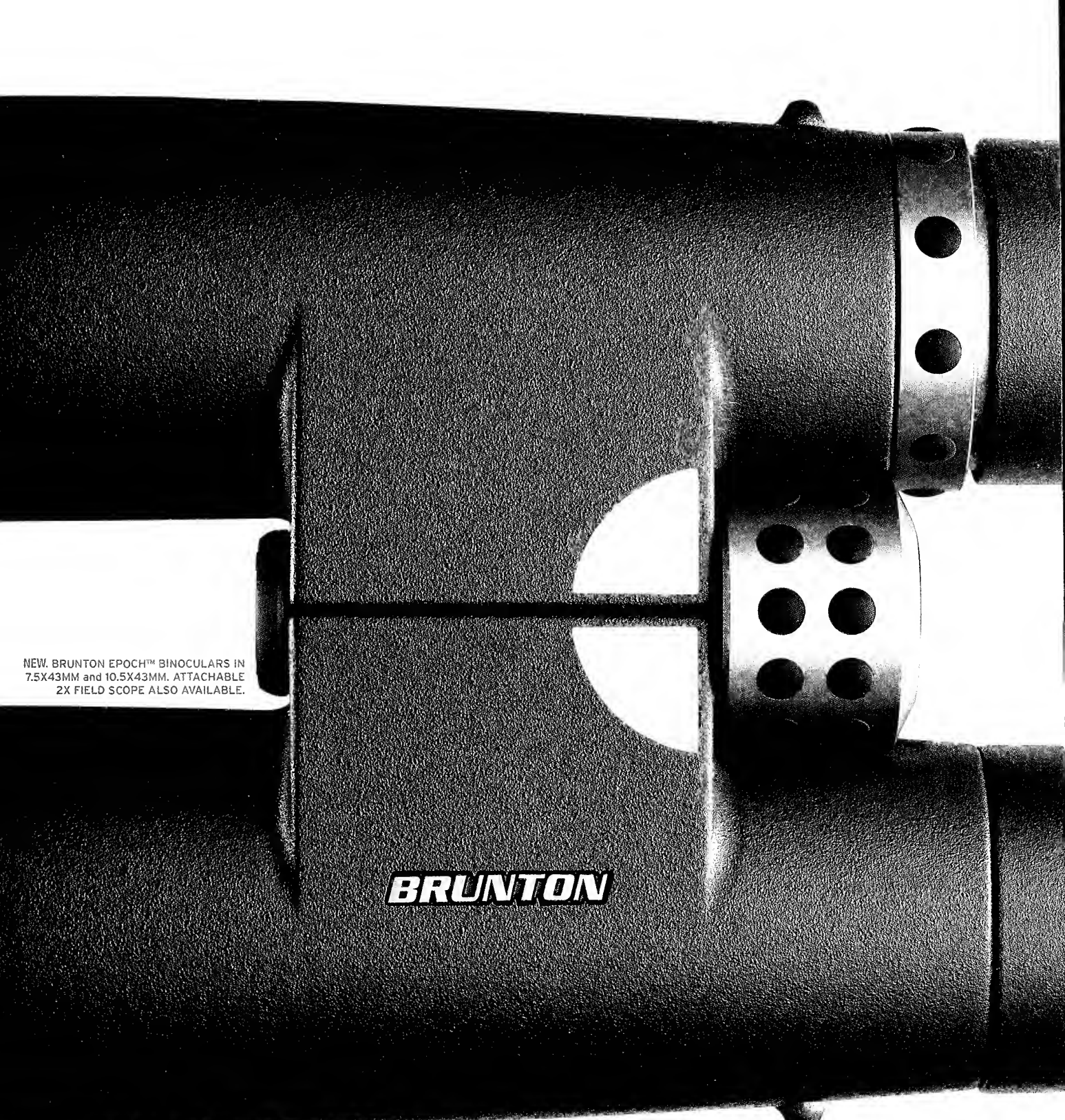
This Far Eastern Curlew was photographed on Disappearing Island, French Frigate Shoals, Hawaiian Islands National Wildlife Refuge on 10 June 2002. *Photograph by Brenda Becker.*



A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher remained from the spring season through at least 30 June 2002 at Hardy Canyon, Yakima County, Washington, but was unable to find a mate, despite construction of "a fine nest." *Photograph by Ruth Sullivan.*



In a season of stunning finds in Texas, this adult male Lawrence's Goldfinch at Guadalupe Mountains National Park 5 (here) to 7 June 2002 may have been tops—an unexpected first summer record for the state. Previous records of this species in Texas have all been part of winter invasions. *Photograph by Janice Wobbenhorst.*



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(Ixobrychus exilis)



Victory 8 x 40 B T*



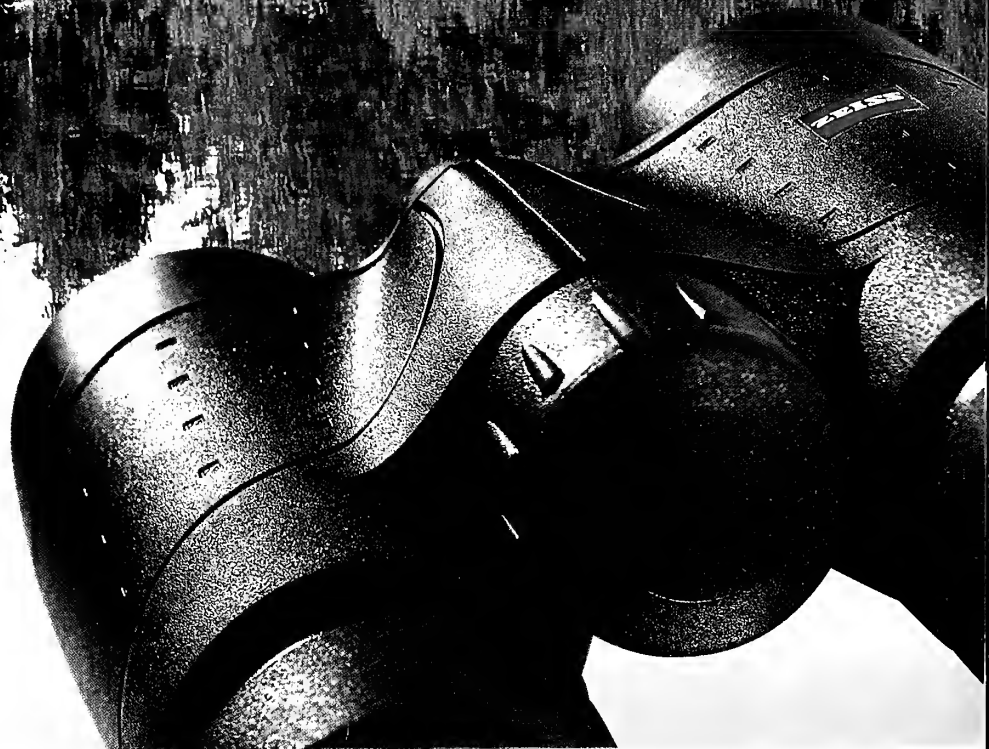
Victory 10 x 40 B T*



Victory 8 x 56 B T*

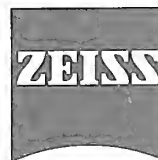


Victory 10 x 56 B T*



Zeiss Victory Binoculars

Nothing matches their performance. From any angle the details captured by these powerful all-purpose binoculars are stunning. Zeiss' unique Advanced Optics System and T* multi-layer lens coatings transform low light conditions into clearly contrasted images and vivid colors. Translation – up to 7% increase in light transmission adds extra minutes to your pre-dawn and post-dusk viewing. These sturdy, lightweight, and waterproof binoculars are backed by Zeiss' Lifetime Transferable Warranty. For more information or to find a dealer near you, visit www.zeiss.com. Based on blue, red and green light transmission tests. Data on file.



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